

Israelis fire on French convoy

TYRE, Lebanon (AP) — A French military convoy belonging to the United Nations peacekeeping force in South Lebanon came under fire Friday from an Israeli armoured personnel carrier in Israel's self-designated "security zone," a U.N. officer said. The officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said there were no casualties among the 18 French soldiers travelling in three vehicles. He said the incident occurred at 6:30 p.m. (1630 GMT) as the convoy — a tank and two jeeps — was crossing through the western entry-point to the "security zone." The officer said the convoy was running from the southern port of Tyre to the border town of Naqurah, headquarters of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). More than 150 UNIFIL soldiers have been killed and 250 wounded since the 5,800-strong force was deployed in South Lebanon in 1978. Israel held on to the 10-to-16-kilometre deep strip of territory when it withdrew most of its forces from South Lebanon in June 1985 after a three-year occupation.

Jordan Times

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Schmidt backs Gorbachev

HAMBURG (AP) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev needs to complete further arms control pacts with the West to stay in power and save off a Soviet relapse into expansionism, former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt said Friday. The respected predecessor of Chancellor Chancellor Helmut Kohl told the closing session of the annual North Atlantic Assembly meeting that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) needs a "grand strategy" for coping with the changing relations between East and West, North and South. He told the advisory body of lawmakers from the 16 NATO nations that the plight of heavily indebted Third World nations could become "catastrophic" if the United States does not reduce its trade and budget deficits. "We need a new evaluation of our situation," Schmidt told the 188-member assembly, referring to the alliance. Schmidt spoke at length about Gorbachev's economic reform plans and how the Soviet leader ties in with Western security. He said Gorbachev needs a "major reduction of military expenditures" but could run into opposition from the Soviet military.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Israeli post attacked in Lebanon

RASHAYA, Lebanon (AP) — Palestinian fighters Friday attacked an Israeli army post in South Lebanon with rockets and automatic fire and a security source said one fighter was wounded. The source said a "fierce battle" started at midday (1000 GMT) between the attackers and Israeli soldiers manning the outpost in the hamlet of Kfarshoubas near the western slopes of Mount Hermon. The usually reliable source said that at least three fighters took part in the attack.

40,000 Albanians protest in Kosovo

BELGRADE (R) — Forty thousand ethnic Albanians marched through the capital of troubled Kosovo province Friday in renewed anti-Serbian protests while Serbs in Belgrade festooned the city with flags a day ahead of a planned anti-Albanian rally. The ethnic Albanians, angry over the removal of local leaders, marched through Pristina, 350 kilometres south of Belgrade, and poured into a sports stadium, Tanjug news agency said. The protesters were angry about the purge of two local leaders forced by Serbia, Yugoslavia's biggest republic, and demanded the officials be given their jobs back.

Lithuania votes compromise

MOSCOW (R) — The Lithuanian parliament Friday voted overwhelmingly for a compromise solution to a looming crisis over Kremlin plans to reform the Soviet constitution and electoral law. At a session in the republican capital Vilnius, deputies backed plans to make Soviet parliamentary elections more democratic but said other changes in the Soviet constitution should be postponed until later, Lithuanian sources said.

Palestinian leader dies of heart attack

TUNIS (R) — Talaat Yaqoub, secretary general of the small Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), died of a heart attack in Algiers Thursday, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) news agency Wafa said. The PLF has been close to Fateh since early 1987, when Yaqoub moved it away from the side of rebels opposed to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. It is represented on the PLO Executive Committee by Mohammed Abbas (Abu Abbas). Yaqoub has been living in Tunis and Algiers.

U.S., Egypt, Israel discuss Taba

WASHINGTON (R) — Israel, Egypt and the United States held talks in Washington on implementing a pact under which Israel would return to Egypt the Taba strip, the State Department said Thursday. "The representatives of Israel and Egypt who are responsible for Taba have been in the United States on other business. We have taken the opportunity of their presence here to discuss the issue with them," State Department spokesman Charles Redman said at a news briefing. U.S. officials would provide no details on the talks.

3 Zimbabweans sentenced to death

HARARE (R) — Three Zimbabweans, two whites and a black, were sentenced to death Friday after being found guilty of murder for carrying out a South African car bomb attack on the African National Congress (ANC) last January. Kevin Woods, Michael Smith and Phillip Conjway were sentenced to hang for the death of Obert Amos Mwaema, who was paid 50 dollars (\$26) to drive a booby-trapped car which blew up with him still inside.

4 killed in bomb attack in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AP) — A bomb attack on a presidential candidate's rally has killed four people and injured more than 70, police said Friday. Police said many were injured in the stampede to flee the scene after the bombs were hurled at the Thursday night rally by suspected Sinhalese extremists. The rally was the first major campaign appearance by Ossie Abeygunasekera, candidate of the United Socialist Alliance, a coalition of three leftist parties. About 7,000 people attended the rally at Grandpass, two kilometres north of Colombo.

Greek cabinet sworn in

ATHENS (AP) — Premier Andreas Papandreu's new government was sworn in Friday following a mini cabinet shift that came just two days after a major reshuffle. Papandreu's new cabinet, the 15th since his Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) came to power in 1981, was altered one day after its announcement Wednesday. The mini-reshuffle abolished a ministry, demoted a minister, shifted one undersecretary and reappointed another fired on Wednesday. The new cabinet now numbers 58 members, up two from Wednesday. Papandreu's previous cabinet numbered 47 members.

Sihanouk: Latest peace talks a failure

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, France (AP) — Kampuchean leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk said the latest talks on a settlement for the war-torn Asian country had failed, according to news reports Friday. Speaking to students Thursday in the southern French town of Aix-En-Provence, Sihanouk blamed Hun Sen, head of the Vietnamese-installed Kampuchean government, for creating an impasse in the talks.

Chun to surrender wealth, leave Seoul

SEOUL (AP) — Former President Chun Doo-hwan, under attack for alleged corruption and other scandals during his administration, will surrender most of his wealth and leave Seoul as part of his efforts to allay mounting public criticism, aides said Friday. One aide said the former president would hold a news conference early next week to announce his decision to leave Seoul after donating most of his wealth to the government.

Polisario: Talks to resume on Dec. 1

PARIS (R) — Indirect talks between Morocco and the Polisario Front on ending the war in the Western Sahara will resume on Dec. 1 in New York under U.N. auspices, the chief Polisario negotiator said Friday.

Bomb explodes near Aeroflot office

GENEVA (AP) — A bomb exploded Friday outside the Geneva office of the Soviet airline Aeroflot, injuring at least five passersby, four of them seriously, officials said. Police said the bomb had been hidden in a package left outside the Aeroflot office. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the blast, and there had been no warning prior to the explosion.

51 Melanesians freed in Paris, Noumea

PARIS (AP) — Fifty-one native Melanesians have been released from prisons in Paris and Noumea, New Caledonia, as part of a plan approved by voters Nov. 6 outlining the future of the French Pacific island territory. The voter-approved measure calls for New Caledonia, a South Pacific island territory of France, to hold a local referendum on independence in 1998.

Salah: Israel's iron-fist policy part of expansionist designs

UNITED NATIONS (Petra) — Israel's systematic oppression of the Palestinian people and its continued violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people living in the occupied territories are part of the Zionist state's expansionist policies, Jordan's permanent representative to the U.N. said Friday.

Addressing the U.N.'s special political committee, which is currently debating the annual report of a special panel entrusted with investigating Israeli practices in the occupied territories, Abdullah Salah pointed out that any review of the political dimensions of the Palestinian problem should be contingent on understanding its humanitarian aspects.

"Israel's violation of the hu-

man rights of the Palestinian people are linked to its expansionist policies," Salah told the committee. "The political dimension and implications of Israeli practices, as explained in the report (of the special panel), clearly demonstrate the essence of the Palestinian question and Israel's designs against the Palestinian people and land as well as all other occupied Arab territories," he said.

"The report shows that Israel's policy on the occupied territories has not changed, since it is clear that the land is still exposed to systematic measures — be they administrative, economic or 'security-wise' — designed to annex the land," the U.N. delegate said.

The Palestinian people are inhumanely treated by the Israeli occupation authorities in an effort to crush them and obliterate their national identity, he said.

He pointed out a reference in the report to remarks by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in October 1987 that the occupied West Bank, Jerusalem, Nablus, Galilee and the Golan Heights were all part of Israel and therefore there was no question of Israel ever leaving these territories.

Furthermore, Salah said, Israel has confiscated a total of 2,776,626 dunums of land — 54 per cent of the West Bank and

(Continued on page 2)

Moscow extends recognition to Palestinian declaration

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union Friday recognised the Palestine National Council's (PNC) proclamation of an independent Palestinian state but did not make clear if the move amounted to full diplomatic recognition.

"Faithful to the fundamental principle of freedom of choice, the Soviet Union recognises the proclamation of the Palestinian state," First Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh told a news briefing.

The Soviet Union believed a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict "will lead also to the practical completion of the historic process of creating this state," he said.

His statement appeared to signal continued Soviet support for

the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) without extending full diplomatic relations. It was subject to opposite interpretations in Moscow.

Asked if the statement meant that Moscow recognised the state proclaimed by the PNC in Algiers Tuesday, Bessmertnykh at first implied this was the case: "Yes, this is the essence of today's declaration."

But he went on to repeat the same ambiguous phrasing of the original statement. "The Soviet Union has recognised the proclamation of a Palestinian state."

Foreign analysts said it appeared that the statement aimed to satisfy Arab countries and other supporters of the Palestinian cause, while deliberately avoiding full recognition of

a state.

The PLO already maintains a permanent mission in Moscow, with a "representative extraordinary." But Soviet Foreign Ministry officials said Friday there were no plans at present to exchange diplomats.

Musa Mubarak, a spokesman for the PLO office in Moscow, said Friday's statement signalled full diplomatic relations and that the PLO would be considered "like any other government" represented in Moscow.

Bessmertnykh praised the Palestinian proclamation, particularly for its acceptance of U.N. Resolution 242.

TASS news agency said earlier that the PLO's acceptance of Resolution

(Continued on page 2)

Palestinians defy Israeli blockade

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Worshipers released balloons and carried out Palestinian flags after Friday prayers to mark the declaration of Palestinian statehood, while a 16-year-old Palestinian was critically wounded in a clash with Israeli troops.

At least 27 Palestinians were reported shot in street battles that erupted in the occupied territories Thursday.

Hospital officials reported at least four people were seriously wounded in clashes in the West Bank village of Tamoun and several areas in the Gaza Strip, including the Shati and Deir Al Balah refugee camps.

An army spokesman said troops raided the village of Tamoun, 26 kilometres northeast of Nablus, and soldiers opened fire at Palestinians who hurled rocks.

Officials at Nabhus' Al Itihad hospital said 13 Palestinians were wounded in the clash, three seriously.

The demonstrations come despite a massive Israeli operation to prevent the Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip from celebrating the

declaration of independence. Hundreds of heavily-armed paramilitary police deterred would-be demonstrators at Al Aqsa Mosque.

About 50 veiled women and children Friday briefly marched outside the Dome of the Rock mosque on Haram Al Sharif, raising Palestinian flags and chanting nationalist slogans. They dispersed peacefully.

Palestinians appeared to ignore strike orders issued in the name of the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas to protest the Palestinian state proclaimed by the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers this week.

Leaders of Hamas claimed leaflets bearing the strike order were forged to confuse and divide Palestinian activists. But it was unclear if this was the case.

Throughout the occupied lands, troops were deployed near mosques to prevent nationalist demonstrations.

At a mosque in Gaza City's Rimal neighbourhood, worshipers flew balloons after prayers, an Arab reporter said. Protesters also burned tyres near the mosque.

Cuba accepts terms of African peace plan

HAVANA (R) — Cuba said Friday it had accepted the terms of an understanding on a regional peace plan for southwestern Africa reached earlier this week in Geneva by negotiators from Angola, Cuba and South Africa.

A statement on the front page of the official newspaper Gramma said Cuba had informed the United States, the mediator in the talks, of its acceptance of the understanding reached between representatives of Angola, Cuba and South Africa.

The announcement effectively paved the way for the signing of a peace agreement on the withdrawal of the 50,000 Cuban troops from Angola and independence for South African-ruled Namibia.

The signing is expected to take place in Brazzaville, Congo, at a date not yet announced.

The statement said in full: "Through the established channels, the government of Cuba has

informed the government of the United States, in its condition of mediator, of the acceptance by Cuba of the understanding reached at the last meeting in Geneva between representatives of Angola, Cuba and South Africa, which had still to be approved by the respective governments."

Delegations from Cuba, Angola and South Africa completed five days of U.S.-mediated talks in Geneva earlier this week providing for the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

They produced an undisclosed timetable which, if approved by the governments in Havana, Luanda and Pretoria, would clear the way for implementation of a 1978 U.N. blueprint for the transition of Namibia to independence from South Africa.

Officials said in Geneva Tuesday that interlocking treaties on a Cuban withdrawal and Namibian independence could be signed soon.

Benazir Bhutto stakes claim on premiership

KARACHI (Agencies) — Benazir Bhutto claimed Friday that she had the support of a majority of newly elected National Assembly members and predicted no obstacles in her bid to become prime minister.

Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) captured a plurality of 92 seats in the 237-member assembly in voting Wednesday, the first free elections in Pakistan since 1977. A total of 215 seats were contested.

The nine-party conservative Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA), her main rival that includes supporters of the late military leader Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, won 54 seats.

Bhutto, meeting journalists at her walled villa in this southern port city, said her party now commanded a "simple majority" because some new assembly members have joined her party since the elections and others have pledged their support.

She refused, however, to say how many of the 204 candidates elected to the assembly now belonged to her party or to give further details. Another 33 seats have yet to be filled.

Wednesday's elections, the first fought by parties for 11 years, swept away a large number of senior politicians.

Among them were the IDA's Mohammad Khan Junejo, a former prime minister, and alliance President Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi,

a disillusioned former Bhutto aide.

The constitution requires the president to allow a member of the new legislature to form a government and Bhutto made it clear Friday she expected to be the next prime minister.

"I don't see any obstacle," she said.

She would not only become the first woman to lead a Muslim country, she also would be recapturing the post lost by her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, when he was ousted in a coup led by Zia in 1977.

Her father was convicted of complicity in a political murder plot and hanged in 1979.

Bhutto, 35, said Friday she was confident of the support of army Chief-of-Staff Mirza Aslam Beg but refused to say whether the two had talked since the elections. Beg offered repeated assurances in the weeks before the election that the armed forces would stay out of politics.

Bhutto also offered an olive branch to her political opponents.

"Despite our simple majority we are prepared to expand our base of cooperation with other parties if they take the initiative,"



Benazir Bhutto

she said. "We are even prepared to overlook what our opponents said in the past."

Bhutto spent most of the day talking to legal advisers at her home and was awaiting provincial assembly elections scheduled for Saturday.

Bhutto has vowed to continue Pakistan's friendship with the United States and support of guerrillas fighting the government of neighbouring Afghanistan.

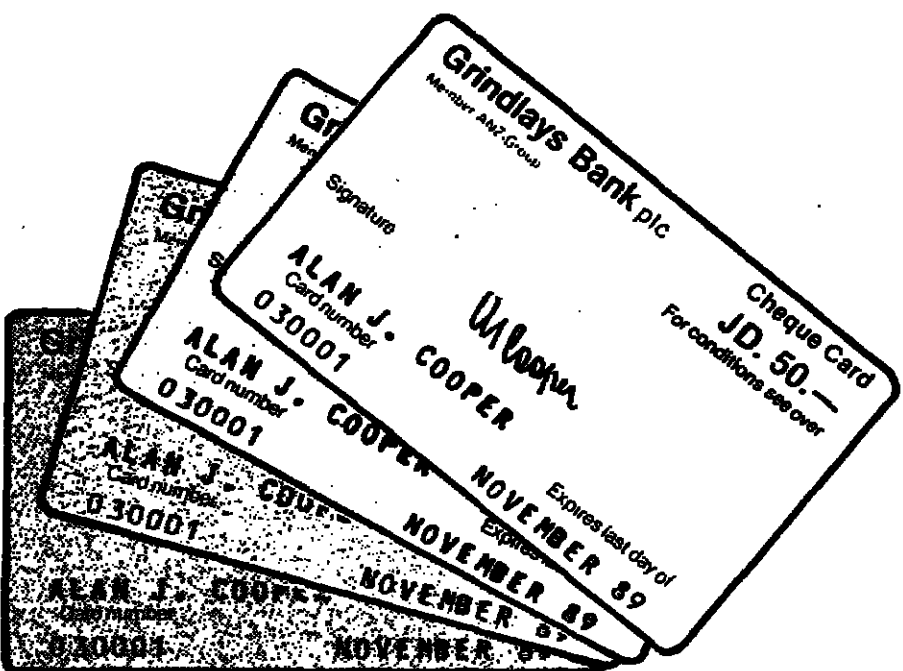
She told reporters she did not believe Pakistan has a nuclear bomb programme, "as widely believed outside the country."

"I hope it doesn't," she said.

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Sudan's main party welcomes peace plan

KHARTOUM (R) — The senior party in Sudan's ruling coalition Friday welcomed a peace accord with southern rebels, isolating militants and raising prospects of a government break-up.

"The accord is a step towards peace," Umma Party Secretary-General Ali Hassan Tajeddin was quoted by the official SUNA news agency as saying.

Diplomats said Umma's stance would isolate militant coalition member the National Islamic Front (NIF). NIF opposes the pact and has warned it could lead to the collapse of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's six-month old government.

The accord was signed in Addis Ababa Wednesday by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebels and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), the coalition's second biggest party.

It is aimed at ending five years of civil war that has created three million refugees and caused mass starvation.

NIF leader Hassan Al Tourabi, who is deputy prime minister and justice minister, was quoted by SUNA as saying Friday the accord could lead to the fall of the government, the dissolution of parliament and destabilise the army.

The army showed signs of approving the pact in statements

earlier this week by Defence Minister Abdul Maged Hamed Khalil.

NIF has said the pact amounts to government surrender to the rebels, who are fighting what they say is northern domination of the country's south.

The pact, which requires government and parliament approval, calls for a ceasefire and a freeze on imposition of Islamic law until a conference on the constitution proposed for Dec. 31.

SUNA quoted Tajeddin, who is on a five-man council acting as the country's president, as saying "we are all for any positive initiative towards peace and we hope that this one can achieve peace for our country."

The Western and Arab diplomats said Umma and the DUP might form a new coalition, dropping the NIF which is its third biggest member and bringing in small southern parties.

A new coalition would be Sudan's fourth since elections in April 1986.

The opposition Communist Party, the Union of Sudanese

African Parties, the Arab Baathist Party and several trade and professional unions have said they back the accord.

The cabinet was due to discuss the agreement signed by DUP leader Muhammad Osman Al Mirghani and SPLA leader John Garang Sunday.

The pact also calls for a lifting of Sudan's state of emergency and abrogation of its military pacts with other states, a reference believed by diplomats to refer to accords with neighbouring Libya and Egypt.

The NIF joined Mahdi's coalition after two years in opposition, saying its main objective was to revive Islamic law which had been frozen since the overthrow in 1985 of President Jaafar Numeiri.

Relief officials said the accord could allow supplies to reach an estimated two million people short of food in the south, where thousands have starved to death this year.

Mirghani, spiritual leader of the large Muslim Al Khatmiya sect, received a hero's welcome from at least 100,000 people on his return from Addis Ababa Thursday.

He told a DUP rally that the SPLA had agreed to release three captured government soldiers as a gesture of goodwill.

Iraq, Britain seek to play down diplomatic row

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq and Britain appeared determined Friday to play down their expulsions of diplomats in an apparent attempt to avoid a further setback to relations.

A British diplomat in Baghdad confirmed Iraq had expelled three British envoys in retaliation for London asking three Iraqi embassy members to leave.

Iraqi Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Nizar Hamdoun told Reuters: "We had hoped to keep these reciprocal acts private ... it's difficult to analyse the effect. But it would have been better to keep the matter private."

"Our diplomats have left Baghdad," the British diplomat said. "We requested the Iraqi diplomats to withdraw from London and they expelled ours... it was three for three."

He refused to comment on the effect of expulsions other than to say "These things happen."

On Thursday, the United States said it had ordered an Iraqi diplomat out of the country in retaliation for what it claimed was the unjustified expulsion of a U.S. diplomat in Baghdad.

A spokesman for Britain's Foreign Office in London said Friday that the Iraqis who left had engaged in "activities incompatible with their status."

He said a fourth Iraqi embassy member who was not then in Britain was barred from returning. London asked the Iraqis to leave last month, and Baghdad

retaliated Nov. 1, he said. Nevertheless, Nov. 7, Britain doubled its credits to Iraq in an apparent attempt to improve relations.

London-Baghdad links were already frayed over London's backing for U.S. demands for an inquiry into allegations that Iraqi forces used chemical weapons against Kurdish rebels. Baghdad denied such use.

In London, Iraq's ambassador to Britain made a low-key response to the expulsions of three of his staff.

U.S. Jews warn Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Three U.S. congressmen, none of them Jewish, warned Israel Friday that American Jews' support for Israel would decline if strict orthodox precept became law.

A majority of America's 5.5 million Jews belong to the conservative and reform strains of Judaism and fear legislation to entrench Israel's orthodox monopoly on matters like marriage and conversion will disenfranchise them as Jews.

"We as U.S. congressmen don't have the right to intervene in the internal politics of Israel but the Jews of New Jersey asked us to tell Israeli leaders... the Jewish community of the United States may show less support for Israel if internal policies are not what they should be," said Republican Jim Courter.

"If Israel is going to redefine laws that may affect the interests of American Jewry, that may impact eventually on U.S. legislation, appropriations, support and money (for Israel)," he told newsmen.

Hunt continues for kidnapped ICRC delegate in S. Lebanon

SIDON (AP) — Lebanese militiamen and Palestinian fighters searched for a Swiss delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in and around Sidon Friday, a day after he was kidnapped by three gunmen.

Joint patrols combed through the teeming refugee camp of 'Ain Al Hilweh and adjacent orange and banana groves on Sidon's southern outskirts under heavy rain, looking for clues on the whereabouts of Peter Winkler.

Winkler's fellow ICRC delegate Gerard Bise said: "We've contacted everybody, all-Palestinian and Lebanese groups in Sidon, and so far there has been no word on Winkler."

No group has claimed Winkler's abduction. However, police said they believe he was kidnapped for a trade-off with Hussein Hariri, a Lebanese aircraft hijacker held in Switzerland for more than 15 months.

Hariri, 22, a member of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah, hijacked and Air Afrique jetliner while on a flight from Rome to Paris and forced it to land at Geneva airport July 24, 1987. He killed a French passenger before he was overpowered and arrested.

The fundamentalist Hizbollah, or Party of God, is an umbrella for pro-Iranian factions holding most of the 14 Western hostages, including nine Americans, in Lebanon.

A police spokesman, who cannot be named under standing rules, theorised that the Fatah Revolutionary Council faction of Abu Nidal kidnapped Winkler "on behalf of Hizbollah."

"The two groups have long been allied. Hizbollah is believed

to have requested Abu Nidal's people to kidnap the Swiss for a possible exchange for Hariri because Hizbollah does not maintain any presence in the Sidon region," the spokesman said.

About 80,000 Palestinians reside in the region, mainly in 'Ain Al Hilweh and the nearby Mieh Mich refugee camp. Previous attempts to find kidnap victims in South Lebanon have not always succeeded.

An extensive search around Tyre failed to locate American William R. Higgins, 43, commander of U.N. observer group

attached to United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon, after he was abducted Feb. 17, 1988. But a Swede and a Norwegian working for the United Nations refugee organisation were released 25 days after their abduction when searchers said they knew where they were being held.

The spokesman said signs of the Hizbollah-Abu Nidal alliance first surfaced in 1986, when Hizbollah "sold" one American and two British hostages to Abu Nidal. The faction killed them to avenge the U.S. air attack on Libya in April that year.

Jews confident Sununu will not hurt ties to Israel

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Jewish groups said Thursday President-elect George Bush's selection of John Sununu as his White House chief of staff was troubling but they believed it would not shake the next president's strong support of Israel.

"The footprints we see don't make us comfortable," said David Harris, Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee.

"But we expect him (Sununu) to adhere to the Bush line, which has been well articulated in many speeches and is very supportive of Israel."

New Hampshire Governor Sununu, a Lebanese-American, was the only one of the 50 state governors who refused to sign a condemnation of a 1975 U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism.

After Bush announced his

selection Thursday, Sununu told a news conference he did not sign because he thought the proclamation was an inappropriate step by the governors. He said that despite his stand in that matter, he opposed the U.N. resolution.

"I have no problem saying that (U.N. resolution) should be repudiated, that we ought to take actions in the U.N. to take that off the rolls, so to speak," he said.

"I understand very clearly that the key to peace and tranquility in the Middle East is to guarantee and to continue to guarantee the integrity and the security of Israel," said Sununu, a former member of the National Association of Arab Americans.

Ambassador Clovis Maksoud of the Arab League said he considered the selection of Sununu to be an internal administrative matter for the Bush administration.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

'Israel's iron-fist policy part of expansionist design'

(Continued from page 1)

Gaza Strip — since June 1967 until August 1988. Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank now total 170 while those in the Gaza Strip total 20, he said.

"Israel's policy in the occupied territories is based on violence, terror, imprisonment, torture, murder, starvation, and other inhuman practices," Salah said. "These are aimed at evicting the Palestinian people from their homeland as a fait accompli prior to annexation," he said.

"The Israeli justification for these measures are always 'security' considerations in the light of the ongoing Palestinian uprising," Salah told the meeting. "But what justifications can there be for Israel using the same measures against the inhabitants of the occupied territories for the past 20 years?" he asked.

Israel has not only used these measures against the Palestinians but has also interfered with every aspect of Palestinian life in the occupied territories, thus trying to undermine all means of the Palestinian people's survival and steadfastness, he said.

"These Israeli measures are embodied in what is called the 'iron-fist' policy which contravenes the simplest codes of civilised conduct and international norms," he said. "Therefore it is not strange that the Israeli authorities resort to humiliating Arab people whom the Israelis consider as an obstacle in the face of Israeli plans to annex the Palestinian and Arab land."

"The Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and the Syrians in the Golan Heights are in the Israeli view a military and security target and a political obstacle in the face of its expansionist policies, and are therefore not human beings, and have no human rights."

"They are not recognised by Israel as a people with rights."

Israel has violated the human rights and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and does not apply the provisions of Geneva convention on the rights of civilians in time of war, Salah said. "Nor does it apply the terms dealing with the treatment of the prisoners of war as appearing in the Geneva convention of 1949."

Salah held Israel responsible for the continued tension in the region. The Palestinian uprising, he said, has, "for the first time, moved the crux of conflict, with all its inherent psychological and political dimensions, to the land from where this conflict originally generated. The uprising has shown that there are only two solutions — one leading to peace and justice and the other leading to further suffering and tension. The Palestinian uprising did away with the

Israeli concept of peace and security based on the Israeli assumption that power and military superiority are the only means for security and stability."

Salah referred the United Nations secretary general's report of December 1987 in which he said the Palestinian uprising was a spontaneous protest against the occupation and that it reflected the Palestinian people's rejection of the Israeli occupation.

"The secretary general's report also said that the Palestinian people is unanimous on the need for finding a political solution for their problem. The report noted that any actions designed to alleviate the Palestinian peoples' suffering should not be taken as an alternative for a speedy solution to the major political problem."

"Pending finding a political solution, the international community should ensure the maintenance and protection of the human rights of the Palestinian people."

Moscow extends recognition to Palestinian declaration

(Continued from page 1)

242 had removed all obstacles to an international Middle East conference.

It urged the United States to use its influence on Israel to persuade it to take part in any such conference.

Israeli leaders refrained Friday from commenting on the Soviet decision.

"We are not in a hurry to react, but it doesn't look good," said foreign ministry spokesman Aliou Liel.

Israeli leaders decided to respond only after studying a text of Bessmertnykh's remarks, both Liel and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner said.

Israel, meanwhile, launched a diplomatic offensive in an attempt to discredit the state.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres summoned 60 foreign ambassadors and representatives to explain Israel's rejection of both the PLO's statehood declaration and U.N. resolutions.

Peres was quoted as telling the diplomats that the PLO's decisions offered no progress towards Middle East peace because the organisation had stopped short of renouncing "terror" and declared statehood unilaterally, before negotiation of a settlement.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke Friday ruled out Australian recognition of the new state but said the declaration represented a positive step in Middle East politics.

Hawke said at a news conference that the new state would have to be a geographically defined area for Australia to grant recognition.

East Germany and Cyprus Friday recognised the independent state of Palestine.

The official ADN news agency said Deputy Foreign Minister Heinz-Dieter Winter handed a note of recognition to the PLO's chief representative in East Berlin, Isam Kamel Salem.

On Thursday four other Warsaw

Pact nations — Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland — welcomed the declaration but stopped short of recognising the state.

Before Friday's announcements, 28 mainly Arab and Islamic states had recognised the Palestinian state. Nine other countries have supported the PLO action, while stopping short of formal recognition.

The military cabinet in Lebanon's dual government, headed by army commander Michel Aoun, Friday recognised the newly proclaimed state.

The recognition came two days after the cabinet of acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss had extended recognition, saying it "welcomed the step taken in declaring the Palestinian state."

A PLO official said in Tunis Friday that the PLO expects the United States to rethink its initial response.

"We think that what's come out of Washington so far is not political," Abu Yahya, director of the PLO Political Department in Tunis, told Reuters.

The State Department, in its first substantial comment on implicit recognition of Israel by the Palestinian parliament, said the PLO had not gone far enough.

"It is ambiguous, both in its placement in the text and its meaning. Possibly implied or indirect recognition of Israel is not enough," spokesman Charles Redman said.

Abu Yahya said the PLO wanted to concentrate on positive aspects of the U.S. reaction and was confident that its message would reach Washington through the documents approved by the PNC.

The PLO could accept a divided Jerusalem, the PLO's representative in Bonn said Thursday.

Abdallah Frangi, reading a prepared text at a news conference, said: "The proclamation of the state of Palestine of Nov. 15, 1988, has made very clear the will of the Palestinians to create a just and lasting peace with a Palestinian state on Palestinian soil at Israel's side."

Labour activists oppose Likud-led coalition

TEL AVIV (AP) — Hundreds of Labour Party members, including more than half of the party's legislators, have demanded an end to Labour's coalition talks with the right-wing Likud Party.

The unanimous decision at a party meeting Thursday, attended by 20 of the party's 39 lawmakers and 200 activists, is expected to put significant pressure on Labour leaders to end negotiations.

Labour members fear the party will agree to a junior partnership with Likud. But the party is still sharply divided over whether to join a Likud-led government or the opposition.

Labour leader and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Thursday that the party's central

committee had still not reached a decision on whether to resume formal negotiations with Likud.

Leaders of both parties met Tuesday but were unable to arrive at a formula for a joint government.

"Labour has not decided yet," Peres told reporters.

Opposition to a Labour-Likud government is so strong that both appointed secret negotiating teams to avoid internal criticism.

Labour members said they will continue increasing pressure on the party's leadership.

"One thing we must tell the leaders is that if Labour lives, it lives at the will of its members and organisations," legislator Micha Harish told Israel Radio.

Parliament member Avraham Burg said he felt that "we started a momentum today. I have no doubt that we expressed the feeling of many members of the party."

If Labour does not join the government, Likud leader and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is expected to form a narrow coalition with the support of right-wing and ultra-orthodox parties.

At the party meeting in Tel Aviv, activists also sharply attacked Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a leading Labour member.

Rabin said Wednesday the party would consider joining a Likud-led coalition if the government pursued peace initiatives

with Arab states.

Rabin also said Labour would not ask for the foreign minister's post, settling for control of the defence and finance ministries in a Shamir-led government.

"What kind of a diplomatic initiative can there be if Shamir is prime minister?" Harish asked, arguing that the Likud head opposed peace.

Labour parliament member Lova Eliav said the party should retreat to opposition and serve as "messengers of peace and messengers of hope that there is an alternative" to a Shamir government.

The ultra-orthodox Shas political party has asked Shamir to create a radio station with exclusively religious programming.

Rafsanjani reaffirms stand on U.S. contacts

NICOSIA (R) — Iran refuses to talk to Washington because Iranian property is frozen in the United States, Iranian Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was quoted as saying Thursday.

It was the first comment by Rafsanjani, who played a key role in secret arms purchases from the United States in 1985-86, on Iran's U.S. policy since George Bush was elected president on Nov. 8.

"America is humiliated today because Iran does not agree to talk to it, for it has kept Iranian property in its warehouses for 10 years against international regulations," Tehran Radio quoted Rafsanjani as saying.

Iran has denied recent reports of contacts with the United States but said the release of Iranian assets worth billions of dollars would be a sign of goodwill and open the way to better relations.

A security source told Reuters in Beirut Wednesday that Iran was discussing a deal with Washington involving an exchange of American hostages in exchange for the reopening of the U.S. embassy in Tehran and release of the Iranian assets.

A State Department spokesman dismissed the report.

Speaking in the southwestern

city of Ahvaz, Rafsanjani said Iran's 1979 revolution was now an established reality and no power in the world could hide the desire to establish relations.

Iran claims that it is owed \$12 billion for weapons and equipment bought by the late Shah but not delivered by the time the revolution swept him from power.

On Nov. 9 President Reagan extended a freeze on Iranian assets, first blocked nine years ago after militant students seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran.

Rafsanjani said the freeze "penalised the Iranian nation for not wanting to accept the deci-

sions (the United States) wants to impose," reported Tehran Radio.

Reagan administration officials secretly sold arms to Iran in 1985-86 in return for the release of three Americans held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

Tehran said the deal was part of a U.S. effort to renew ties but it was thwarted by political rivalries in Washington. U.S. officials said it was meant to encourage a "moderate" leadership in Iran.

The arms-for-hostages exchange with Iran and diversion of profits to rebels in Nicaragua became the biggest crisis of the Reagan presidency.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:30 Programme review
15:35 News Summary
16:30 Educational programmes
16:40 Citeus
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News summary
18:05 Message from Iraq
18:15 Arabic series
19:00 Local programme
19:30 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:35 Local series
21:30 Programme review
21:45 Local programme
22:30 Arabic play (cont.)
23:10 Arabic play (cont.)

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 L'Affaire Saint Romans
18:00 News in French
19:15 Un DB de Plus
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Growing Pains
21:00 The Twilight Zone
21:30 Saturday Variety Show
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "Magnificent Obsession"

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.0 KHz, SW
Tel: 77111-19

07:00 Morning Show
07:30 Newsday
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary

MORNING SHOW CONTD.

10:05 Morning Show Contd.
11:00 Hitville: The Story of Motown
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:30 Jordan Weekly
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumental/Old favourites
17:00 Special Feature
17:30 Good Old Days
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Top Twenty
19:00 Newsday/Music
20:00 The Young Sound
20:30 Discovering Music
21:00 The Musical in Review
22:00 Country Music
23:00 Classical Concerts
24:00 Close Down

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Hays Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also stories from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel: 651760.

PRAYER TIMES

04:42 Fajr

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lubweidh, Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757. Sunday English mass (summer time 6 p.m., winter time 5 p.m.).
Terresanta Church (Roman Catholic), Jabal Lubweidh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel: 632366.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abadi, Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 625363, chaplain's residence Tel. 628243.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 713331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 715261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 717151.
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 653226.
Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir 811295.
Rainbow Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) Inter-denominational-ecumenical English Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. Tel.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) 813817, 821264

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

04:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
05:55 Baghdad (RJ)
09:00 New Delhi (RJ)
09:10 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:35 Dhahran (RJ)
09:40 Kuwait (RJ)
09:55 Baghdad (RJ)
09:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
15:30 New York, Montreal (RJ)
16:20 Miami, Vienna (RJ)
17:20 Athens (RJ)
17:25 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
18:40 Tripoli (RJ)
23:30 Amman (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

02:45 Belgrade, Istanbul (JU)
09:35 Cairo (MS)
12:25 Benghazi (RJ)
16:00 Kuwait (RJ)
17:45 Rome (AZ)
21:05 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)

DEPARTURES

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:35 Amman (RJ)
10:40 Tripoli (RJ)
11:00 Amman, Nicosia (RJ)
11:10 Athens (RJ)
11:40 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
11:45 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
12:00

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

KING CONGRATULATES OMAN: His Majesty King Hussein has sent a cable of good wishes to Sultan Qaboos of Oman on his country's National Day. The King wished the sultan continued happiness and his people further progress and prosperity. (Petra)

ART EXHIBITION: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma is due to open an art exhibition entitled "The Friends of the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries' Plastic Art" at the Jordan National Gallery on Dec. 8. The exhibition includes paintings representing various plastic art schools by twenty artists from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, and the UAE. (Petra)

KHASAWNEH RECEIVES ENVOY: Information Minister Hani Khasawneh Thursday received Egyptian Ambassador in Amman Mahab Muqbil (Petra).

HAMZEH INVITED TO ITALY: Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Thursday received the Italian charge d'affaires in Amman. During the meeting Dr. Hamzeh received an invitation from his Italian counterpart to attend a ceremony due to be held in Rome on Dec. 7, on the 100th anniversary of the issuance of the Public Health Law in Italy. After the ceremony, the health ministers invited from different parts of the world will meet to discuss health issues of common interest. (Petra)

DAKHQAN VISITS MA'AN: Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakhqan visited Ma'an Thursday to inspect water and irrigation projects and to discuss matters related to these projects with local officials. The minister inspected a wastewater treatment plant, the main water tower in Ma'an and a water network. He also toured a number of artesian water wells, supplying the city with drinking water, and heard the views of local officials on the public needs of additional water supplies especially during the summer. (Petra)

ENVOY TO CYPRUS: The council of ministers has appointed Samir Khalifa as non-resident ambassador to Cyprus. Khalifa is also Jordan's ambassador to Greece.

COURSE FOR MINISTRY EMPLOYEES: Over a hundred employees of the Ministry of Education Thursday began a two-week training course in Amman covering the fields of production, administration, publication, editing, and design. This course is intended to develop the employees' capabilities in these fields. (Petra)

MUSEUM COMMITTEE HOLDS TALKS: The mobile Life and Science Museum-consultative and preparatory committee Thursday continued its meetings with representatives of various institutions and discussed matters dealing with the museum. These institutions will help make preparations for the museum alongside Noor Al Hussein Foundation and Haya Arts Centre. A specialised committee was formed to make all the preparations for the museum. (Petra)

SEMINAR ON LOCUSTS: A seminar was held in Irbid to discuss means of combating locusts. Specialists from the Ministry of Agriculture addressed the meeting explaining the ministry's measures to counter any invasion by the pest and the present locust situation in the Arab region. (Petra)

POLICE OFFICERS GRADUATE: A group of junior police officers concluded a training course in leadership skills, organised by the Police Academy in Amman, and graduated at a ceremony held Thursday. The graduates received diplomas at the ceremony from the academy's commander Brigadier Mohammad Bassoul. (Petra)

Young pianist to perform at RCC

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Among the events organised on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's 53rd birthday and under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, is a piano recital by young Jordanian Rula C. Nabeel. The performance is organised by the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped, in collaboration with the Royal Jordanian, the Amman Marriott Hotel and the Royal Cultural Centre.

On Sunday Nov. 20, at 8:00 p.m., at the Royal Cultural Centre, Rula Nabeel will play works by Beethoven, Chopin, Haydn and Bach. Although she will be arriving from Europe where she is completing her masters degree in music, Rula's home is in Amman.

It is much reassuring to notice the increasing number of local musicians giving concerts and recitals in Jordan, often joining the foreign artists in combined performances. Miss Nabeel belongs to the young generation of Jordanian musicians who have the potential to create and participate in a local music movement.

Born here in 1966, in a family where everyone loves music, she



Rula C. Nabeel

started studying the piano at the age of 7 with Miss Huda Shaban. She must have fallen in love with the instrument, for by the time she graduated from the Rosary College, she was awarded Her Majesty Queen Noor's Music Scholarship and went on Germany for higher music education, in an arrangement with the Royal Endowment for Culture and Education.

Passing brilliantly a highly competitive entrance examination, she attended the courses given by Professor Hans-Helmut Schwarz in Mannheim — Germany.

Rula Nabeel's recital comes in a series of three performances including Professor Hans-Helmut Schwarz and Edith Heurich.

She has already performed in Europe with several music ensembles sometimes as a soloist. Her plans for the future are ambitious since she intends to have, in addition to Jordan naturally, an international career.

283 students receive honours

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A total of 283 students from Jordanian schools were honoured Thursday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath for their marked efforts in youth activities within the Prince Hassan Award programmes.

Of the winners 16 were presented with golden prizes, 92, silver and 175 were awarded bronze prizes for their participation in these programmes which are held annually.

The director of the Prince Hassan Award programmes made a speech at the ceremony held at the International Baccalaureate School in Amman outlining the different activities included in the programmes which, she said, aim to promote the young Jordanian people's contribution to their country.

The award which has been initiated in 1984 is similar to that known as the Duke of Edinburgh Award created in 1956 and is widely spread in many countries.

The programmes involved in the participation of youths aged between 14 and 25 in various skills, youth activities and voluntary service designed to enhance



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday presents an award to one of the 283 Jordanian students at the International Baccalaureate School (Petra photo)

their personalities and promote their society's stand. Among those attending the ceremony were the ministers of

education and higher education, president of Jordanian universities and an audience of invited guests.

Celebrations on King Hussein's birthday continue in Aqaba

AQABA (J.T.) — A major celebration was held at the sports complex in Aqaba and different ceremonies were held in other towns throughout the Kingdom Thursday and Friday to mark His Majesty King Hussein's birthday.

Youth clubs, Boy Scouts and various organisations took part in processions in which youth carried posters, the King's portraits and Jordanian flags and passed through main streets and public squares accompanied by the Armed Forces Brass Bands.

The sports complex in Aqaba was the scene of a variety of performances that involved activities by local schoolchildren and a visiting Egyptian folk troupe. The children presented national dancing and songs and speeches were delivered on the occasion by dignitaries and heads of local councils. Several sports events were held in a number of areas.

Among those present at Aqaba's celebrations were Ministers of Tourism Zahair Ajlouni and Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Hammouri.

Later, Hammouri opened an exhibition in Aqaba displaying artefacts and antiquities excavated in the ports city by the



Aqaba children present songs at the Aqaba sports complex on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday (Petra photo)

Department of Antiquities in cooperation with the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago.

The exhibition conducted in the ancient Islamic city of Ayla located in the centre of modern Aqaba marks the end of a six week digging season by the archaeologists working under the direction of Dr. Donald Whitcomb, and the conclusion of the third season of excavations in that area.

Exhibition displays items left behind by ancient travellers, people of Aqaba

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

IF YOU walk through the port-resort of Aqaba today, you will encounter people and goods that have come to the land of Jordan from the four corners of the world, whether for reasons of tourism, commerce, transit travel or employment. They carry their culture with them in the form of small objects and commercial goods — ceramic or plastic plates, small symbols of their religious beliefs, inscribed bits of wood, metal or other durable materials, glass objects, jewelry, coins, metal instruments and scores of small functional objects or utensils that are used for the day-to-day tasks of ordinary people in scores of cultures around the world.

As people do today, the ancient travellers and traders of our world came to Aqaba for similar reasons, carrying on themselves and in their ships a similar array of functional and personal objects that reflected their emotional and religious

sentiments, their technological prowess and their creative instincts. If you would like to peek into the past and to examine the objects and artifacts that were left behind by the people who lived in the ancient port of Aqaba, and those who came to Aqaba from the four corners of the ancient world, you can do so easily by visiting the exhibition of items excavated at Aqaba during the past three years.

The exhibition, which opened at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre Thursday, brings together a splendid collection of artifacts from the excavations which have been conducted by a team headed by Dr. Donald Whitcomb of the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute, in cooperation with the Jordanian Department of Antiquities. The exhibition was first displayed at the Oriental Institute last year, and was neatly designed by Jim Richardson so that it could be easily packed and transported in several wooden crates for display elsewhere. After its two-week stint in Amman, the exhibition

will travel to the new museum at the Yarmouk University Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, after which it will go on permanent display at Aqaba itself, in the new visitors' centre now being refurbished by the Ministry of Tourism. The exhibition is entitled "Aqaba: Port of Palestine and Storehouse of the Hijaz on the China Sea," and it lasts until the end of the month.

The site being excavated is the early and medieval Islamic town which was called Ayla, now being exposed again underneath a large sandy field between the corniche and the sea, across the street from the Miramar Hotel. Three seasons of excavations have revealed a walled town some 160 x 145 metres in size, with outer walls, towers and city gates still standing over four metres high in places. Excavations have documented about 500 years of the town's history, from the mid-7th Century to the mid-12th Century AD, spanning the historical periods of the earliest Islamic conquests around 640-650 AD, followed by the Umayyad, Abbasid and Fatimid eras.

The site itself is particularly noteworthy — perhaps uniquely so — because it may represent the earliest and best preserved Islamic town outside of Islam's birthplace in Arabia. It has started providing valuable information about how the first Muslims viewed the concept of town planning. In Don Whitcomb's words, "it will help us understand what the first Muslims viewed as an appropriate urban plan, and how towns and cities became 'Islamicised' during the early decades of the Muslim conquests outside Arabia."

When the Islamic forces conquered the region of south Jordan and established their new town at Ayla around 650 AD, there was a Byzantine town in the vicinity which they seem to have left in peace, preferring to establish a new Islamic town which may have started as a fortified Greco-Roman and Byzantine settlements, such as rectangular fortifications and semi-circular towers. The internal town plan would have re-

Senate speaker meets W. German MPs

Cooperation with Bonn contributes to Jordan's development — Lawzi

AMMAN (Petra) — Economic cooperation between West Germany and Jordan is bound to contribute to the Kingdom's development and prosperity, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi said at a meeting here Thursday with a visiting West German parliamentary delegation.

King Hussein's visits to West Germany was an expression of the Kingdom's belief in the importance of that country's leading role within the European Community, to bring about stability and peace to the Middle East," Lawzi said at the meeting which was held at parliament building.

Jordan, Lawzi said, "takes pride in its relations with the Federal Republic of Germany and hopes that Bonn will be instrumental in convening an international Middle East peace conference."

"Israel's continued rejection of peace and international law represents the major stumbling block in the path of this region's stability and security, and continues to cause further waste of the Middle Eastern countries' financial, economic and human resources," Lawzi pointed out.

Thus, he said, calls for West Germany and the European Community to play a leading role in ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and help bring about peace to the region.

The head of the visiting delegation paid tribute to efforts by His Majesty King Hussein in orienting world public opinion on the real situation in the region and in seeking an international conference to establish a lasting peace.

Earlier Thursday, Lawzi delivered a lecture at parliament building outlining the development of parliamentary life in the Kingdom since the rule of the late King Abdullah, founder of the

Kingdom, and the political, economic and social conditions in Jordan over the past decades.

Referring to the commencement of parliamentary life here, he said the first legislative assembly in Jordan was created in 1929, once King Abdullah was proclaimed King in Transjordan.

He said the present house of parliament was established for the first time in 1946, and in 1950 was enlarged as a result of the unification of the two banks of Jordan.

But, he said, Israel's occupation of the West Bank and its annexation of Arab Jerusalem

dealt a heavy blow to parliamentary life in the country causing the Kingdom to create the National Consultative Council that helped the government to discharge its various duties.

"The severing of ties with the West Bank this year came in response to the wishes of the Palestinian people and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and has helped in the process of creating the independent Palestinian state," Lawzi said.

He said the government is now involved in measures to amend the election law and a special committee has been set up to take the necessary arrangements in this respect.

The lecture was attended by Civil Service Commission director general and participants in an on-going training seminar on higher level public administration organised by the Institute of Public Administration.



Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi receives West German parliamentary delegation in Amman Thursday (Petra photo)

Seminar to discuss Greater Amman development

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on planning in the Greater Amman Region will open here Monday to focus light on the Greater Amman Municipality's endeavours to develop the capital and its surrounding areas from now until the year 2005.

The Ministry of Planning, Greater Amman Municipality

and the Arab Cities Organisation have joined forces to prepare for the coming three-day seminar, which will discuss 30 working papers prepared by specialists in city organisation including professors from Jordanian universities and others from abroad.

The working papers deal with other countries experiments in

planning city transport, urban development, the involvement of different organisations and government departments in resolving housing, population and municipal issues in cities and the use of land for housing within urban regions, according to a statement from Greater Amman Municipality.

It said that the seminar is aimed also to focus public attention on studies prepared in the course of a comprehensive plan to develop Amman until the year 2005.

It said that the municipality will open a museum displaying charts, maps and organisational plans.



A fragment of the Latin dedicatory plaque from the Byzantine town of the 4th Century AD.

with the non-specialist public in a manner that is both pleasing and educational.

The Department of Antiquities and the University of Chicago team are to be commended for showing how such an exhibition can be put together using locally available materials for the show-cases and explanatory panels — at relatively modest cost, and in a manner that allows the exhibition to be dismantled and put up again at other locations in Jordan or abroad.

Another challenge that remains to be met is how to conserve the important ancient town while allowing modern development to continue apace at Aqaba, for the site of the excavated city is earmarked for a new marina and hotel complex being established by the Royal Yacht Club of Jordan. The club has been most cooperative in allowing the dig to continue, but in the coming few months some important decisions will have to be made about where to locate some of the new "city"

ties that are planned for the city — notably the hotel and the main club headquarters.

Present plans call for some of these structures to be built directly on portions of the ancient city, though an effort is underway to call attention to this fact, and to request that the new marina facilities be redesigned in a manner that would allow the modern facilities to coexist in peace with the ancient walled town. If Jordan's contemporary planners are able to blend the requirements of the present with an appreciation for our ancient heritage, this will surely prove to be a test case that should be watched closely.

The Aqaba excavations will continue next year, and have been funded to date by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the National Geographic Society, Royal Jordanian Airlines, the National Geographic Society, the Department of Antiquities and the University of Chicago.

WHAT'S GOING ON

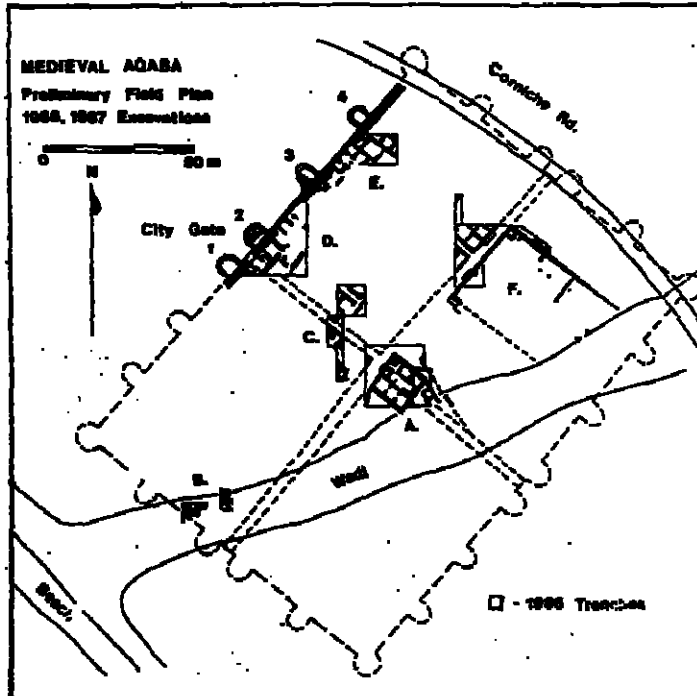
The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of rare Arabic coins at the Central Bank of Jordan.
- ★ A book exhibition of recent American publications on economics, management, business, and other topics of interest to students and professionals in business and public administration at the American Centre.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by eight Jordanian artists at Abdul Hamid Shomam Foundation — 6:00 p.m.
- ★ A plastic exhibition by Abdul Ra'ouf Shamoun at Jordan Association of Plastic Arts hall.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "The Hashemites in Historical Photos and Documents" at Madaba Young Women's Centre.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture in English by Prof. Dr. H. Dickinson entitled "Computer-Diagnostic by Using S... and Data Processing" at the Jordan University Hospital Auditorium — 12:00 noon.



Plan of the site of medieval Aqaba (Ayla), with excavations from the 1986 and 1987 season.

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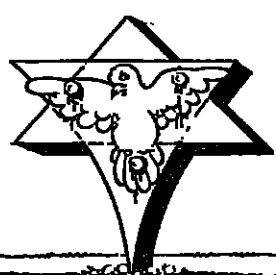
Enough is enough

IT WILL be premature to believe that the peace agreement reached this week between a major coalition partner in the Sudanese government and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) could lead to an overnight comprehensive settlement to the north-south conflict in the country. But, it indeed is a step in the right direction, at least in that it indicates positive feelings on both sides towards dialogue as a means to settle the conflict.

More than anything else, the tentative accord is sending a strong signal to the outside world that there is a growing majority in Sudan that believes enough is enough and that it is time to shift attention to the country's grave problems of famine, drought and floods. Despite the hesitant notes from the SPLA over the agreement's interpretation — whether it means an immediate ceasefire or not — we in Jordan cannot but hope that Sudanese leaders will try to build on the Addis Ababa accord and consolidate it to the point where the devastated millions in the war-stricken areas could receive food and relief supplies without hindrance. That could be the most outstanding accomplishment of the country's politicians and bureaucrats.

But, the danger lies in the possibility that the political controversy that the agreement has sparked in Khartoum could lead to a collapse of the coalition government, thus torpedoing the peace process before it could get off the ground.

We can only appeal to all Sudanese leaders from every corner of the political spectrum to stop and consider for a moment where their national interests lie and how best could they shoulder their responsibilities towards the millions of their countrymen who have experienced nothing but despair, agony and suffering in the past several years. The paramount question is: are their political interests worth the death of a few thousands more due to hunger and starvation?



Waleed — Al Dustour

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Friday tackled Israel's handling of the very positive world-wide reaction to the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state, and said that Zionist leaders are now in a race against time to prevent countries from recognising it. One Israeli parliament member went as far as demanding that Tabat should not be handed over to Egypt unless that country pledged non-recognition of the new state, the paper noted. This is clearly an interference in another country's internal affairs; but Israel can resort to any measure and at any level to achieve its objectives, the paper added. All Israel's manoeuvres against the Palestinian state should be regarded as attempts to prevent a lasting peace from being established in the Middle East on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338; and should also be looked on as a new diplomatic intimidation no less dangerous than military aggression, the paper said. It said that the convening of an international conference on the Middle East is the only viable means of finding a just and lasting formula for peace between the Arabs and Israel; and the only way that can pave the way for the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Friday advises Israel to save its propaganda campaigns against the Arabs in general and Egypt in particular, and says that Israel's warnings to Egypt to refrain from recognising the Palestinian state will be in vain. Mahmoud Al Rimawi says that Egypt has more than on one occasion pledged that it would remain committed to the Arab Defence Pact and all national causes, and has proved time and again that it is indeed committed to support the Arab World's efforts to achieve peace and to back the Palestinians to regain their rights and their homeland. The writer says that Israel's politicians have warned Egypt that recognition of the independent Palestinian state meant a violation of the Camp David Agreements but was rebuffed by Foreign Minister Ismat Abdul Meguid's announcement that Cairo welcomes the proclamation and considers it as a positive move towards peace. He says Israel should give up the idea of regarding the Camp David accord as a solution for all its problems with the Arabs since Egypt has earlier declared those agreements are no more suitable for a lasting settlement.

Al Dustour newspaper discussed the situation in the occupied Arab territories where, it said, the Zionists have failed to quell the uprising. Not only has Israel failed to stop the stone-throwers and put an end to the protests in these territories, but it has now proved to be a failure also at the diplomatic front, the paper noted. It said that Israeli leaders have failed to stop countries from recognising the Palestinian state especially Third World countries and European nations which have voiced their warm welcome of the Palestinian proclamation. Israel's disappointment and isolation from the rest of the world can best be viewed in the present sympathetic stand of France and the United Kingdom towards the Palestinian cause, and in a growing world-wide demand for the convening of an international conference to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, the paper pointed out. The paper referred in particular to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's statement in Washington on the Middle East, and said it clearly displays Israel's failure to win over major nations to its side.

The following is the second part of a two part series on global issues taken from the book: **Winning the Human Race**, the final report of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan launched last month during visits to London and Paris.

Poverty and development

THE ELIMINATION of poverty and the satisfaction of basic human needs is still a goal which challenges both individuals and societies. Indeed, despite all individual, national and international efforts, the majority of people encounter famine, disease and death as an almost daily consequence of their poverty. All our technological achievements and all our mastery of material things do not prevent human-beings from dying of malnutrition every minute of every day somewhere on this planet.

There remain large areas of absolute poverty, particularly in Africa and Asia. Far from improving, in Sub-Saharan Africa per capita incomes have been falling for over a decade. Low-income Africa is now poorer than in 1960, and the World Bank projects a further decline over the next decade. The prospects for the absolute poor, now numbering some 800 million, are more desperate than ever before.

This tragic situation cries out for remedy. Human development is the ultimate goal of national development. Yet, after four decades of developmental efforts by the international community, hundreds of millions of our fellow human-beings still live and die in hunger. Much of the reason why the development process is facing great strains and renewed uncertainty is to be found in the recent world recession. The international economy favours the rich industrialised countries. Indeed in recent years the world has moved away from international economic cooperation and may be moving towards a new era of economic domination and dependence.

At a time when the world is experiencing a great mobility of capital, the needy countries of the Third World are being starved of funds. The total net flow of money from the West to the Third World has fallen dramatically in the 1980s. The biggest falls have been in private investment, commercial bank loans and government export credits. The fall in private capital transfers, the largest part of total resource flows, has been particularly sharp, from \$74 billion in 1981 to only \$29 billion in 1985, with bank loans falling even further than investment. Aid from Western countries to the Third World has fallen to 0.35 per cent of gross domestic product, half of the target set by the United Nations in 1971 of 0.7 per cent.

As Third World populations grew by some 10 per cent between 1981 and 1985, total resource flows from Western countries per recipient actually fell by nearly 50 per cent. The developing countries need to double the present inflows of capital by 1990 if they are to achieve a growth rate of 5 per cent a year. Debt servicing now outstrips new financial flows to the Third World. In June 1986, the World Bank itself revealed that it had become a net recipient of funds from middle-income developing countries. Africa will be heavily dependent over the next few years on major external capital flows simply for recovery. The need for fresh flows of capital to the poorer countries is greater than ever.

However, the concern of ordinary people, particularly in the industrialised countries has grown as that of their governments has diminished. In 1985, the year of worldwide publicity for the famine in Africa, the non-governmental organisations, which include the major famine relief agencies, recorded an impressive 20 per cent increase in their contributions. The overall picture, however, remains one of inadequacy in the face of ever-increasing human need.

The struggle against poverty is crucial to the future of our global human society and it concerns people and governments everywhere. There is a need to increase agricultural yields, as well as to make major policy changes in the relationship of agriculture to industry and of farmers to city dwellers. Some one billion people in rural areas of the Third World are landless or nearly so. Costly programmes of land reclamation, rural credit and infrastructural development are required and the problem of land distribution needs to be addressed.

Yet the necessary emphasis on agriculture must not obscure the needs of the world's city dwellers. At the present time our planet has some 250 cities of over a million people each. Of these 100 are in the developing world. By the end of the century there will be 440 such cities and 300 — almost two-thirds — of them will be in the developing world. Poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, disease, high infant mortality and low life-expectancy, and the resultant denial of human potential for the multitude of individuals concerned will put severe strains on the social, national and international fabric of our society.

Race in the wrong direction

Global militarisation

PERHAPS, for the first time in human history, millions of people the world over are not just uncertain about their own future or concerned about their children's future, they are deeply anxious about the future of our entire planet. Their anxiety springs from the fact that man now has the capacity to eradicate human life from this planet many times over. With the aid of their military industrial establishments, the superpowers have, during recent years, elevated their rivalry to such a level that fear is beginning to subvert reason.

The argument that a nuclear deterrence strategy, which until now has underpinned the arms race, has succeeded in keeping the peace between East and West for nearly 40 years cannot be easily dismissed. But, as nuclear weapons proliferate and the destructive power of those weapons becomes more apocalyptic, the proposition that we must have this massive capacity to annihilate ourselves totally has lost all credibility.

continued to grow, with over fifty developing countries having their own arms industries by 1985.

The reality behind these facts is of a world in which the insecurity of its people is increasing, not diminishing; a world failing to work to create a climate of peace and international understanding conducive to meeting the great challenges of our time; a world squandering its treasure on the worthless dross of armaments and denying vast resources to the needs of human development. Armed violence, and the atmosphere of distrust which feeds it, call for our most urgent attention. The technical knowledge to bring about disarmament exists but the realisation of world peace and global security require a new humanitarian commitment from all of us.

Terrorism

FAILURES within the international community to respond to aspirations of nationhood, and to resolve deep-seated communal and racial grievances have all too frequently led to acts of terrorism. Terrorism is by no means a

global violence and reflects the increasing reliance on violent methods. These methods are not employed only by aggrieved groups but also by governments to harass opponents. According to the United Nations, "disappearances", kidnapping, torture and murder are practised by governments, or by para-military groups protected by them, in almost forty countries. This particular form of terrorism received our special attention and is discussed later in this Report.

Terrorism is an affront to humanity. It violates the principles of international cooperation and understanding between nations which are central to an international humanitarian perspective. It can only be combated effectively through collective action, tenaciously pursued at the global level on the basis of common principles.

The international drug problem

ILLICIT drug trafficking is one of the most lucrative forms of international trade with profits running into billions of dollars. In the United States, the retail value of the illicit drug trade, an estimated \$125 billion, is bigger than most of the giant business corporations. In poor countries, drug money is capable of transforming national economies and undermining fragile political structures.

International crime syndicates are directly connected with the illicit drug trade and launder profits through established financial institutions. The full extent of such transactions is difficult to quantify in the absence of access to bank records but a significant proportion is reportedly recycled for investment in orthodox business ventures. Drug money also appears to be closely associated with the international arms trade and is an important element in several on-going armed conflicts.

Contrary to the general view of illicit drug use and narcotic flows which tends to see drug addiction as a problem faced mainly by industrialised countries as a result of opium poppy and coca cultivation in the Third World, facts and figures tell a different story. The bulk of opium production is used locally with a staggering 60 per cent of the world's heroin supply consumed in Asia. Up till now, activities aimed at cutting off supplies have been a major preoccupation of the authorities. This has led to the processing facilities being set up closer to the point of production, which, in turn, has resulted in higher consumption levels and social and economic disruption in Third World countries. Often crop eradication programmes in one area

have led to increased production elsewhere.

Crop substitution programmes have had equally ambiguous results. In general, they have shown little appreciation of the social and cultural setting and economic imperatives which favour the cultivation of crops used in the illicit production of narcotics. While the income made by the peasant farmers is negligible as compared to the retail value of illicit drugs, for many it is their only means of survival.

Law enforcement measures aimed at thwarting supply routes and penalising or regulating the distribution and consumption of intoxicants, are effective methods to curb drug abuse. Strengthened police activities are almost an automatic response when the prevalence of drug addiction increases or becomes an issue that commands public attention. However, one of the major pitfalls of a law-enforcement approach is the tendency to narrow the focus to cutting off supplies and the justification of measures, however inappropriate, aimed at realising this objective. Some countries have resorted to draconian legislation, including the death penalty, for possession of a prohibited drug.

On a practical level, treating drug addicts as criminals does not resolve the problem. Those who direct and control the illicit drug trade are rarely prosecuted. Notwithstanding sophisticated surveillance technology, stronger patrols and bigger budgets, police and customs officials can, at best, hope to intercept between 3 and 10 per cent of drugs illicitly entering a country.

A more realistic assessment of the poverty and chronic underdevelopment which characterise the production of crops in source countries would greatly benefit the formulation of programmes geared to peasants' needs as opposed to the current emphasis on eradicating drug-producing crops. Crop-substitution programmes have an important role to play in combating drug abuse but must take into account the cultural, social and economic situation of the people most directly affected.

Drug abuse and trafficking have emerged as a threat not just to a few countries but to the world community as a whole. The repercussions tend to go beyond the problem of drugs to arms trafficking and national security. To date, however, our international system has been largely ineffective in reducing the impact of this trade on human lives. It seems more urgent than ever that the system of multilateral cooperation is strengthened to find a global response to this growing problem.

"The struggle against poverty is crucial to the future of our global human society and it concerns people and governments everywhere."

The arms race pollutes the ethical stream of human survival not only by threatening man's physical existence but also by impairing his prospects for development, particularly the more balanced and sustainable development now widely recognised as essential. When almost one trillion dollars are devoted every year to military expenditure, when the great majority of the world's scientists, engineers and technicians are engaged in military-related research or production, when the military culture becomes paramount in the corridors and council chambers of world power and spreads even to the developing world, real development is not only neglected, it is negated. This is the case for all countries, rich and poor, but with the most devastating consequences for the poorest.

One of the most tragic consequences of a civilisation geared for war rather than peace is the rapid spread of militarisation throughout the countries of the Third World, in defiance of the evident gravity of developmental need. One quarter of the Third World's crippling debt burden of nearly \$1,000 billion results from arms purchases. While Third World arms imports have fallen recently, due partly to declining oil revenue and to the debt crisis, Third World arms industries have

new phenomenon. The term is used, sometimes wrongly, to describe a wide variety of violent activities, but is usually understood to mean the use or threat of violence designed to achieve a political purpose by individuals or small groups. As such, it has much in common with the actions of resistance movements in territories occupied by hostile forces, a comparison which immediately suggests the ambiguities inherent in the world terrorist, since one man's terrorist may be another's resistance or freedom-fighter.

Unlike earlier forms of it, modern terrorism often takes place far from the country or regime against which its acts are directed, and adds hostage-taking to the political assassinations of earlier times.

For terrorist action to have the required effect of striking terror or achieving a particular political aim, it must have as widespread an impact as possible. The contemporary global community offers an ideal echo-chamber. Modern media coverage together with the new information technology means that news of the action can reach a mass audience within minutes of its occurrence.

Terrorism has become in recent years a serious impediment to the development of international cooperation and multilateralism. It is part of a spectrum of

New East-West climate complicates NATO nuclear plans

By Richard Balmforth
Reuter

BRUSSELS — NATO is inching ahead with plans to develop new short-range nuclear weapons but the changing East-West climate is tempting key European allies to shy away from giving their final go-ahead.

The Western military alliance says its long-standing plans are on track to develop a new land missile to replace the ageing Lance and an air-to-surface missile to penetrate upgraded Soviet air defences.

But wooed by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and with arms control exerting more appeal, some Europeans are reluctant to talk about stiffening the West's nuclear defences just now.

They fear moves to modernise could be branded by Western peace movements as a violation of the U.S.-Soviet medium-range missile accord, though the weapons involved are not covered by that treaty.

"Inside the alliance things are moving along well (on modernisation). What we do not know is where the political debate is going to be next year," one NATO diplomat said.

NATO's uneasy centres on key ally West Germany, whose Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has been most upbeat about future East-West ties with Gorbachev in power.

He opposes an early decision to upgrade short-range nuclear weapons now and has called instead for negotiations with the Soviet Union to reduce them.

"Compensating disarmament in one area with new armaments in another area is out of the question," Genscher said in a recent newspaper interview in West Germany.

Short-range, or tactical, weapons include artillery shells that can be lobbed up to 30 kilometres and the U.S. Lance missile that can travel about 115 kilometres.

Modernising these elderly systems has taken on increased mili-

ary importance for NATO in the wake of the superpowers' 1987 intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty abolishing ground-based missiles of 500-5,500 kilometres range.

To NATO's chagrin, Genscher's view has now been espoused by Belgium which says talk of short-range modernisation in the current East-West climate is premature.

At a NATO nuclear planning meeting last month, Belgium, whose six-month-old centre-left government has been influenced by the Flemish Socialist Party, declined to endorse an alliance report on short-range systems.

Diplomats say they have also detected sympathy from Italy for Bonn's views. All three countries would be natural sites to deploy a new generation of short-range missiles.

No ally flatly opposes modernisation. But this provides little comfort for those like the United States and Britain who say time is running out and want an early decision.

Both Bonn and Brussels insist there should be no decision until NATO has charted a "comprehensive concept" on security that reconciles arms control with defence modernisation.

This however has become bogged down over West German insistence that it also embrace improvements in East-West relations under Gorbachev and is not likely to be agreed until the middle of next year.

The United States and Britain say modernisation must go ahead in spite of promising signs of change in the Soviet Union under Gorbachev. "It would otherwise be unilateral disarmament by neglect," said one diplomat.

Vacillation by the allies could be used by U.S. congressional critics to prove their point that the Europeans are not willing to bear the risks that go with a common defence.

It is the fate of a successor to the Lance, a weapon that will be obsolete by the mid-1990s, that preoccupies the NATO military most.

U.S. General John Galvin, supreme commander in Europe, wants developments of a new missile and warhead that can reach well over 400 kilometres.

NATO strategists say land-based systems have extra strategic value since they amount to visible proof of alliance determination to deter attack.

For the Europeans, the counter-side to that is they can also be a magnet for anti-nuclear demonstrations. Painful memories of the 1983 anti-nuclear protests over

deployment of U.S. cruise and Pershing-2 missiles are etched deep.

The modernisation programmes also envisage U.S. development of a tactical air-to-surface missile (TASM), with a range of about 400 kilometres.

A "stand-off" missile that can be fired at Warsaw Pact targets from planes flying over NATO territory is seen by the military as imperative given advances in Soviet anti-aircraft defences

against nuclear bombers. Warheads for this missile would have to be stored in Western Europe, where the aircraft that would launch them are already deployed.

To help governments sell the policy at home, NATO says it could scrap hundreds of warheads in Western Europe — especially nuclear artillery shells — if modernisation gets the go-ahead.

This "quantity for quality" exchange, however, has so far

failed to impress West German opponents of early modernisation.

Tactical weapons have always made West Germans uneasy since their short range would turn their country — and that of their East German kinsfolk — into a nuclear battlefield in a war.

NATO hopes that plans to lengthen the range of the Lance, thereby reducing the deadly short-range threat to Germany will provide a compelling argument that may finally sway Bonn.

Gorbachev travels abroad

By Michael Putzel
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, struggling with stubborn and potentially threatening problems at home, is launching a new thrust in the arena of foreign policy, where he has enjoyed his greatest political successes.

The Communist Party chief, who leaves this week for his second visit to India, told a farm meeting in southern Russia Tuesday that he plans to visit the United States, Britain and Cuba next month.

"There is much work to be done, and we intend to continue acting in close cooperation with Socialist countries and with all peoples and governments to put international relations on a proper footing and strengthen world security," Gorbachev declared.

He plans to address the U.N. General Assembly in New York and meet with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and President-elect George Bush — in addition to engaging in separate talks with Cuban leader Fidel Castro and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

The schedule of foreign travel for the energetic 57-year-old Soviet leader comes at a time when his domestic policies are stirring foment but producing lit-

tle tangible progress. Ethnic and nationalist movements are challenging Kremlin authority over Armenia and the Baltic republics, even as an en-

NEWS ANALYSIS

trenched bureaucracy resists Gorbachev's effort to loosen Moscow central controls he blames for stifling economic growth.

Gorbachev complained at a

conference called to encourage farmers from collective and state farms to lease and manage their own land that the modern socialist economic model is not fulfilling the system's potential.

Meanwhile, the parliament of Estonia prepared to consider a "declaration of sovereignty" that would claim the Baltic republic's independence from the Soviet Union in all areas except defence and foreign policy.

Gorbachev warned that some

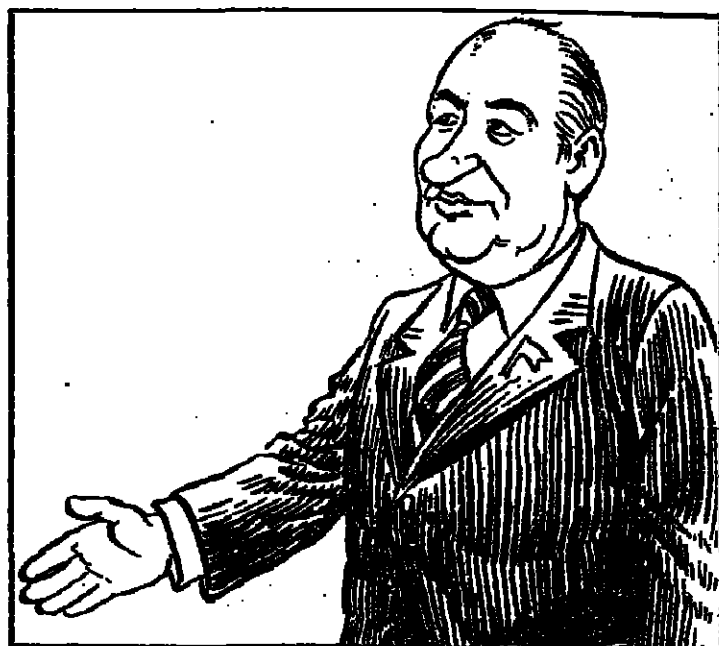
nationalists are trying to "provoke inter-ethnic strife and undermine the friendship" of Soviet peoples, and he cautioned against whipping up those coals that for generations have glowed just beneath the surface.

The Soviet leader, although beset by domestic troubles, has won praise for his handling of several international issues: summit with Reagan; the Soviet decision to withdraw from Afghanistan; efforts to defuse the Angolan civil war; and construction of new political and economic bridges to Western Europe.

His most striking foreign policy success has been the U.S.-Soviet agreement scrapping intermediate-range nuclear weapons.

In New York, Gorbachev will bid farewell to Reagan, his four-time summit partner. He also will be among the first to welcome Bush to the world stage, where the two will pursue the unfinished business of seeking further cuts in their nuclear arsenals, especially their stockpiles of long-range weapons.

The trip to Havana to meet with Castro, a frank opponent of many Gorbachev reforms, may demonstrate the Soviet leader's willingness to tolerate divergent views within the Communist world. Discussion of the future of Cuban troops in Angola would seem a certain topic of discussion.



Poverty rampant in the United States

By Laura Castaneda
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — More than 32 million people in the United States are considered poverty-stricken, and nowhere is the contrast between rich and poor more jarring than in New York.

In Bohemian Greenwich Village, a young man lives on the sidewalk and peddles paperback books just around the corner from trendy jazz clubs, cafes and boutiques.

On the lower East Side, where a Spanish-language church sits on the same block as a thriving Chinese noodle shop and kosher bakery, poor people of every race and age wait in a crowded health clinic.

In Central Park, cyclists on bikes worth hundreds of dollars whiz by a sickly 20-year-old cocaine addict and hundreds of others who make their homes there.

The federal government spends billions of dollars annually on emergency food, shelter and health programmes. But the high number of people living on the streets, hungry and unemployed, remains a serious problem that directly or indirectly touches everyone in the United States.

Some blame the poor, saying they've become lazy and developed a comfortable reliance on public handouts. Others blame the social system for the loss of well-paying jobs, education and training programmes, a lack of housing and underfunded government programmes.

But one thing is certain: Poverty is a serious problem in one of the world's most prosperous and powerful nations.

"It has reached catastrophic proportions," said Prof. William Julius Wilson of the University of Chicago, who has conducted several studies on poverty in the United States.

"It used to be you could improve your state. That's the American dream. But it's not true anymore," said Tracy Huling of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, adding that the nation is evolving into a class system.

"It's Calcutta come to the United States," said Diane Sonde, director of project Reach-Out, which works with the mentally ill homeless.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 13.5 per cent of the



A young man hunts for food on the streets of New York.

nation's almost 246 million people — more than 32 million men, women and children — fell below the government-established poverty line in 1987. That's more than Argentina's total population.

Poverty is defined by the government by the level of income

enough to lift victims out of poverty or reverse its complex underlying causes.

According to the Reagan administration, the situation is not so dismal. Since the end of the 1981-82 recession, which had sent the jobless rate into double digits, some 15 million new jobs have

And public assistance, although barely adequate, at least provides basic medical care, food and even emergency shelter.

A report by the Employee Benefit Research Institute showed that nearly 18 per cent of the civilian population under age 65 reported no health insurance from any source.

Most poor people would work if they weren't prevented from doing so because of the fear of losing benefits, age, poor health, disability or lack of child care, according to a study by the Coalition on Human Needs.

"I think most people think the poor become so because they are lazy," said Susan Rees, executive director of the coalition.

"The popular notion that the poor don't want to work is just not true. They have a very strong commitment to work and taking care of their families," she said.

At the dilapidated Martinique Hotel, one of 47 used by New York city as temporary shelters, Wanda Perry sat in the lunchroom with one of her four children and said she would work if she could find affordable child-care.

She also lamented the lack of affordable housing.

"There are a lot of buildings out there that are all boarded up. They ought to get them, clean them up and make them livable," she said.

Emilio Santomaria, 78, lives in a government housing project with his wife and their son. The

32 million Americans below poverty level

necessary for the basic necessities of life. For a person living alone, that would be \$5,778 a year.

Not enough

By comparison, the mean income for full-time workers in the United States is almost four times that — \$26,896 a year.

There are scores of programmes on the federal and state level for these people. The federal government is spending \$10.5 billion this year for subsidised housing, \$20.3 billion on food subsidies and school lunches and \$8 billion on educational grants and loans for the poor.

The federal government spent more than \$126 billion on health services for the poor and elderly last year, and \$16.3 billion on direct welfare payments to families.

These programmes help. But like a band-aid on a gunshot wound, they are simply not

been created.

The nation's unemployment rate in September stood at 5.4 per cent, or roughly 6,596,000 people. The June figure of 5.3 per cent was the lowest it had been in 14 years.

Wilson said, however, that changes in the U.S. economy caused a shift from goods-producing industries to service industries. As a result, more jobs were created, but they were unskilled and not high-paying blue collar jobs.

Wilson said people were left with three choices: public assistance, low-paying service jobs, or part-time jobs that provide no benefits.

It's a no-win situation. Part-time work, even at a job that pays the minimum wage of \$3.65 an hour, could boost a person's yearly income level high enough to cut off any public assistance.

Earnings drop at U.N. stamp sales agency

By Peter James Spielmann
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Earnings from the sale of U.N. postage stamps fell two-thirds in the 1980s, a problem the U.N. postal agency director blames on trying to sell to a vanishing generation of collectors.

"Our base group of collectors started in the 1950s and it is dying, to put it bluntly," said U.N. postal administration head Gisela Grunewald.

Stamp sales are also hampered by the agency's reliance on political and social themes. "Our subjects are much more political; we cannot put out a puppy-dog or love stamp," she said.

One of the U.N.'s best-selling issues, the 1954 Human Rights Day stamp, illustrates the marketing challenge the agency faces.

The human rights stamp probably did not achieve its popularity due to its theme, but because it depicted a mother-and-child scene reminiscent of the Madonna and infant Jesus, and was issued in early December, just in time for use on Christmas cards.

While most political stamps are simply less interesting to collectors, some political issues repel them.

In 1981, the General Assembly instructed the U.N. postal agency to issue a stamp proclaiming "the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people."

"The Palestinian stamp was an absolute disaster for the U.N. postal administration, from which it has not recovered. Many of the stamp dealers in the United States are Jewish," said Michael Lawrence, the editor and publisher of Linn's Stamp News, the authoritative guide for collectors.

"I think we answered 20,000 letters on that issue," said Mrs. Grunewald. "There was a rumour that the U.N. was issuing

a stamp to honour the PLO and that revenue from the stamp will be sent to Mr. (Yasser) Arafat. It is very difficult to explain to the public the difference between the PLO and the Palestinian people."

Income from U.N. stamp sales goes into the general U.N. budget, reducing the assessment member nations pay. It does not go to the cause or agency pictured on the stamp.

U.N. stamps vary in their value to collectors; the 1954 human rights stamp, which had a face value of 3 cents, now sells for up to \$9.50. A three-stamp block in 1955 that honoured the U.N.'s 10th anniversary had a face value of 15 cents; now its value ranges from \$190 to \$320.

A recent audit of all U.N. agencies noted that net income of the U.N. postal administration declined from \$13.5 million in 1980 to \$4.5 million in 1987, and criticised the agency for lacking a marketing plan and leaving two of three marketing director's posts vacant.

Mrs. Grunewald said a marketing plan will be in place by the end of the year.

The agency has been unable to hire people to fill marketing posts under the U.N.'s general hiring freeze, but other employees have been performing most of those duties, she said.

"There is an inherent catch-22 (paradoxical) situation in trying to run a commercial enterprise in an organisation with bureaucratic restraints," she said. "It's not something that comes as a surprise to any of us, although it's sometimes very frustrating."

The real crisis, she said, is that stamp collecting, the hobby that has brought tens of millions of dollars into the coffers of the cash-poor United Nations, is in decline worldwide.

The late 1970s saw a boom in all sorts of collectibles due to a high inflation rate that cooled in

the 1980s, she said. Sales of stamps, coins, gold, antiques and other tangible goods peaked in 1980 and tapered off afterward.

In addition, said Mrs. Grunewald, the U.N. postal administration received an extra lift that year because it opened a new postal centre in Vienna, joining the New York and Geneva offices.

The agency also began a series of flag stamps that year, and had other popular special issues that boosted sales in 1980.

A more ominous problem for the U.N. postal agency, said Mrs. Grunewald, is that it is losing the elderly philatelists who began collecting the U.N.'s politically

family collects \$691 monthly from social security in a city where rent for a decent one bedroom apartment on the commercial market is \$850 or more.

"It's tight," he said. "It just isn't enough."

Even if the elderly have planned well and have benefits, a catastrophic illness could wipe them out financially.

Some aren't as fortunate as Santomaria and end up on the streets. Estimates on the number of homeless in the United States range from 300,000 to 3 million.

At project Reach-Out, Sonde said teams of social workers get into their blue vans twice a day to hand out sandwiches, juice and cookies to their mentally ill, homeless clients throughout the city.

She said in the peak summer months, they'll see as many as 45 clients in Central Park in less than two hours. That does not even include the homeless who are not mentally ill.

Paul Ramos of the Betances health unit on Manhattan's lower East Side said that a housing shortage isn't the only problem.

"It points to a broader problem — it points to society in general. People come from multi-problem families," he said.

"There's a different thing happening now. This is not a poverty that existed 40 or 50 years ago. It's a different kind of anger. Drugs have also had their effect," Ramos said.

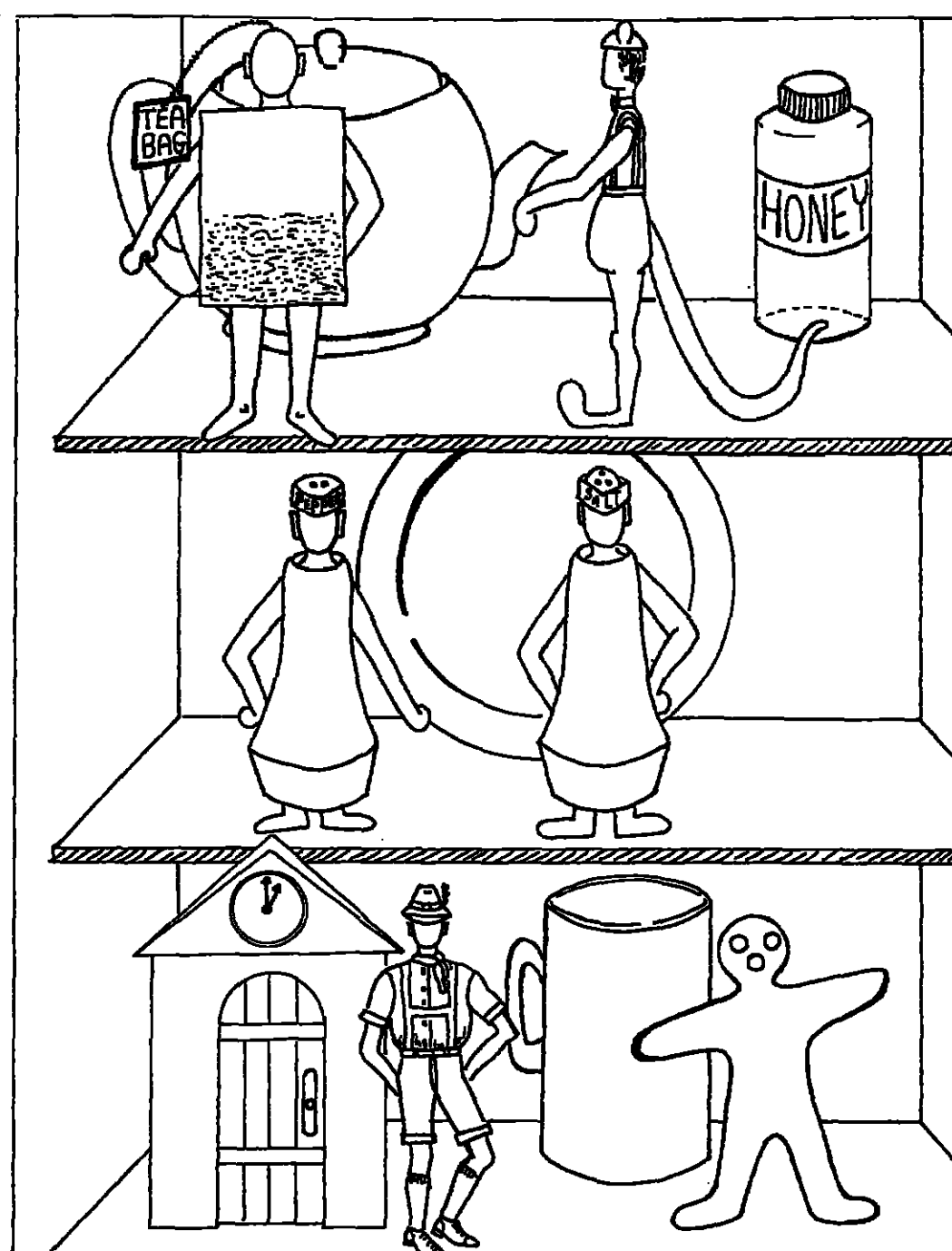
"One thing that would improve conditions in inner cities is to increase employment opportunities," Wilson said. "When people are jobless, they turn to crime. Joblessness is related to other social problems."

He said joblessness could be eradicated through a guaranteed job programme, combined with an earned income tax credit.

Huling said the welfare system has to be revamped, people receiving aid must be allowed to build assets without the fear of losing aid and benefits should be increased.

Ronald Mincy of the Urban Institute said it is important to train and educate children who are living in poverty early so that they can break free of the cycle.

"Society needs this population. There's a waste of human resources out there," he said. "It makes good sense to develop social programmes to meet the labour needs of the future."



Hey its the Gingerbread Man

The Gingerbread Man is coming to Amman next month in a brand new production by the Royal Theatre Company which will be held in aid of the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped. Use your paints and colours in this Jordan Times sponsored competition to bring the Gingerbread Man to life and win yourself some free tickets for the opening night performance on December 17. The best entries will also receive a surprise

prize. All entries must be returned to the Jordan Times by Dec. 1, 1988. The judges will award prizes to the best entries in the 5 years and under group and to the 6 to 11 year old group. The winners will be announced in the Jordan Times issue of Dec. 10. All entries will be displayed in the foyer of the Royal Cultural Centre for the duration of the show which runs from Dec. 17 through to Dec. 22.

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Pressure mounts on shekel as economy in Israel slows

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli government is under mounting pressure to devalue the shekel amid the most serious economic slowdown for three years, economists and government officials said Friday.

Pressure from banks, businesses and the public has increased with new figures showing the cost of living index rose a worrying 2.4 per cent in November, ensuring this year's annual inflation rate would be higher than 1988's 16.7 per cent.

The shekel has been pegged to a dollar-dominated basket of currencies since January 1987, during which time Israel has experienced cumulative inflation of more than 30 per cent.

Bank of Israel Governor Michael Bruno has privately urged the government to devalue as soon as possible, saying that speculation against the shekel was draining foreign currency reserves, pushing up interest rates, fuelling inflation and halting investment, officials said.

More gloomy figures published by the Central Bureau of Statistics forecast that gross domestic product (GDP) was likely to grow by only about one per cent in 1988, after 5.2 per cent in 1987, with industrial production actually falling three per cent this year.

The slowdown, which latest indicators suggest may turn into a recession, was partly due to a Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, estimated by the central bank to have wiped two percentage points off GDP growth this year.

Figures Friday showed 6.9 per cent of the workforce was unemployed in the third quarter of the year

and officials said the number of jobless was rising rapidly as firms implemented redundancies delayed until after this month's general election.

The economic and monetary problems are complicated by the fact that Israel has only a caretaker government at present while right-wing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir tries to form a new coalition.

Audus said Finance Minister Moshe Nissim was resisting being pushed into a devaluation without an accompanying wage-restraint agreement with the Histadrut trade union federation, on which negotiations have not even begun because of the elections.

Meanwhile, the Bank of Israel has taken steps to increase commercial banks' shekel liquidity, drained as businesses and savers convert their money to dollars.

Unofficial estimates suggest speculative flight from the shekel could wipe \$400 million off Israel's \$5 billion foreign currency reserves in November.

The black market dollar rate, a semi-official indicator published on the front page of most Israeli newspapers, has soared to 1.88 shekels, 19 per cent higher than the official 1.58 shekels.

But economists said the margin overestimated the likely extent of a devaluation, not expected to exceed 15 per cent.

Bush vows to tackle budget deficit

WASHINGTON (R) — President-elect Bush vowed Thursday to tackle the federal budget deficit once he is inaugurated.

"We need to do something about it, and when I get into office we will do something about it," he said.

Bush told a news conference that he agreed with Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan that the budget deficit is a matter for concern.

Greenspan Wednesday told the National Economic Commission, a bipartisan panel responsible for recommending ways to reduce the federal red ink, that "such large and persistent deficits are slowly but inexorably damaging the economy."

The federal budget gap totalled \$155 billion in fiscal year 1988 and is expected to top \$145 billion

in the current fiscal year, which began Oct. 1. Many economists believe that tax increases, as well as spending cuts, will be needed to reduce the deficit.

Earlier Thursday, Bush's transition spokeswoman said that declines in financial markets were not due to Bush's refusal to raise taxes.

"I think it's just that traditional nervousness with change," the spokeswoman, Sheila Tate, said of the markets during a television interview.

She disparaged Greenspan's comments when told they seemed to suggest he would not oppose raising taxes as a last resort. "Economists never agree on anything," she said.

Greenspan Wednesday offered no specific proposals for reducing the deficit. But he said lawmakers

should emphasise spending cuts rather than tax increases. "We are more likely to be successful on the expenditure side than on the revenue side," he said.

In prior testimony to Congress, Greenspan recommended an increase in the gasoline tax.

Bush's economic adviser, Stanford University economics professor Michael Boskin, said Thursday that the federal budget could be balanced by 1993 with tight spending control and trimming of budget growth.

"The budget is projected to grow by a third of a trillion dollars over the next several years. If we can trim that growth to a smaller sum, we can get to a balanced budget in the time frame, by fiscal 1993, give or take a year," Boskin said in a television interview.

Bush, who has already reappointed Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, said at his news conference that he would probably announce his choice for budget director before long. "I want to get our economic team in place," he said.

Former Deputy Treasury Secretary Richard Darman is widely expected to head the budget office.

On trade issues, President Reagan said Thursday there would be no change in U.S. goals at world trade talks after Bush

takes office in January.

"Anyone who thinks that American policy in this area might shift with the new administration or the new Congress is deluding himself," Reagan said in a speech to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Reagan said Congress expressed its support for U.S. policies being pursued at the trade talks in the recently enacted trade bill. He said he and Bush would soon meet U.S. negotiators to reaffirm their support for those goals.

Reagan's statement came just weeks before the Dec. 5 beginning of the mid-term review of the so-called Uruguay round of world trade talks, which is to be held in Montreal.

The talks, aimed at lowering barriers to world trade, will focus on commerce in agriculture, services, investments and intellectual property such as books and films.

"The president-elect and I intend to meet with Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter and Agriculture Secretary Dick Lyng before the mid-term review to reiterate our mutual support for this negotiation," Reagan said.

In the agricultural sector, Reagan said the United States would be willing to take a more flexible approach.

Stock market police seek global links

MELBOURNE (R) — Securities regulators from 29 countries meeting here agreed to work on global cooperation against market abuses and to encourage integrity.

"Unless we learn that, we will be outwitted by the malefactors at every turn," Australian National Companies and Securities Commission (NCSC) Chairman Henry Bosch said.

Bosch chaired the three-day conference of the International Organisation of Securities Com-

missions (IOSCO) which issued a communique spelling out how regulators plan to cope with the pace of internationalisation in their industry.

Bosch said the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) new blueprint for world securities regulation, released in Washington last week, gave leadership for the industry.

The IOSCO conference stopped short of adopting the policing measures recommended by SEC,

such as allowing agencies to subpoena evidence on behalf of overseas counterparts, but agreed to encourage cooperation.

It said the role of the securities regulation was to facilitate the smooth flow of capital around the world in open and strong markets. Insider trading and market manipulation weakened the stature of the securities industry.

"Insider trading, manipulation and... fraudulent conduct are deleterious to efficiency and integrity

of markets and increase the cost of raising capital," the communique said.

Bosch told a news conference the policing role of securities agencies was often overstated, "there's too much emphasis placed on the business of catching the baddies."

A less glamorous aim of regulators was to break the barriers to capital movement. "If we can do that, we've contributed to world prosperity," he said.

U.N. warns of grave financial crisis

UNITED NATIONS (R) — U.N. member states' debts to the world body exceed \$816 million, creating a grave crisis and a "very real risk" the United Nations may default, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Thursday.

Measures taken to meet the shortfall both in the regular budget and for peacekeeping by suspending financial rules and drawing on a \$100 million working capital fund and a \$109 million special account had not met the situation, he said.

In a written report to the

General Assembly, Perez de Cuellar said that unless governments paid up promptly "the organisation will continue to face the very real risk of defaulting on its day-to-day financial commitments."

An accounting annexed to his report showed the United States remained the biggest regular budget debtor, owing \$337.2 million on Oct. 31.

The Soviet Union's debt had been reduced to \$7.2 million, according to the report, which

placed the total regular budget arrears at \$451 million.

Peacekeeping arrears were estimated at \$365.1 million.

Perez de Cuellar said peacekeeping activities could remain in place despite a serious deficit only because member states supplying troops continued to bear the full burden of the deficit.

Summing up the situation, he said: "The financial position of the organisation is grave."

In a press statement later, the

United Nations said only 75 of the 159 member states were fully paid up on their contributions, and 41 of the remaining 84 states owed more than their assessments for 1988.

Each of the following states owed more than \$1 million, according to the statement: Argentina, Brazil, Hungary, Iran, Israel, Libya, Peru, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Ukraine, Soviet Union, United Arab Emirates, United States and Yugoslavia.

Central banks renew battle for dollar

LONDON (R) — Central banks repeatedly bought dollars in the open market Friday in a concerted bid to halt a slide by America's currency which threatened to dislodge the global economy.

They kept it just above 1.74 Deutschmarks and 123 yen, up from Thursday's New York closing values of 1.7303 and 122.05.

The Bank of Japan intervened in Asian trading. West Germany's Bundesbank and six other European central banks hit the market again early in Europe's day. They came back later, after New York opened and the dollar slipped a little, when America's Federal Reserve board also joined in.

The banks were renewing a battle begun Thursday, when they probably bought at least \$2 billion against a market which has taken the dollar down 10 per cent since the summer because of fears about U.S. economic policy.

The slide has accelerated in recent days.

West German dealers said 1.74 marks seemed to be the floor for the dollar that the banks had in mind.

"Clear support from the Bundesbank will send the dollar up like a homesick angel," said a currency dealer in Frankfurt.

Speculators are terrified of the German central bank which has a reputation for perfectly timed snap deals to burn people who have bet too hard on a currency moving this way or that.

So the market was wary for the moment of selling more dollars.

The dollar has been under pressure since George Bush won the U.S. presidential election Nov. 8. Investors think he will have to let it slide to correct America's trade gap and are also worried that he may fail to deal with its other big deficit, the federal budget.

The dollar is perilously close to

a historic low against the yen of 120.20 which it touched Jan. 4.

Meanwhile, the central bank rescue bid reflects international pledges to stop fluctuations in the world's reserve currency.

According to the New York Times, representatives of U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady and from other leading industrial nations met secretly in Paris Monday.

It said the meeting at the Louvre Palace offices of France's finance ministry led to the central bank interventions. The Bundes-

bank declined to comment on the report.

Brady, out to reassure financial markets, said Friday he was not worried by the dollar and stock market fluctuations.

Dealers say they can't prop the dollar up this way for ever and that President-elect Bush must create confidence in his ability to tackle America's deficits.

European central banks in the market Friday were the Bundesbank and those of Austria, Belgium, France, Italy and Switzerland, dealers said.

OPEC turns up pressure on Baghdad and Tehran

VIENNA (R) — Iran and Iraq came under strong pressure Friday from Saudi Arabia and other oil exporters to resolve a dispute over output levels as a deadlock at OPEC talks sent crude prices skidding worldwide.

Dubai oil, a key Middle East crude, slumped under \$10 a barrel, \$7.50 below the group's target. Traders thought that uncompromising attitudes by Iran and Iraq at the talks boded ill for an OPEC accord to curb excess

output and tighten an oversupplied market.

Iraq insists that an output agreement for 1989 allow it to pump as much oil as Iran, historically a bigger producer. Iran rejects this demand for parity in their allowed quotas.

OPEC Secretary-General Subroto of Indonesia held out little hope Friday of an early breakthrough, telling reporters: "We are working very hard... we have to be realistic."

Asked how the gap could be bridged, Subroto sighed and, after a long pause, said: "By talking to them."

The present Vienna talks group eight oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' pricing and strategy committees, mandated to prepare for a full OPEC conference next Monday.

OPEC sources said three non-Middle East ministers, of Nigeria, Indonesia and Venezuela, were Friday asked to talk separately with the Iranian and Iraqi ministers to mediate in the dispute which has split the 13-nation group.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

KHC to run Kuwait Hilton next year

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait Hotels Company (KHC) will take over management of the Kuwait Hilton from the U.S. hotel chain Jan. 1 and rename it the Kuwait International, chairman of the board Ali Ahmad Al Ghanim announced Thursday. The 415-room hotel has been managed by Hilton since it opened in 1969 as one of the first luxury hotels in the northern Gulf state. KHC is owned by the state Kuwait Investment Authority.

Soft drinks war fizzles up in India

NEW DELHI (R) — India's soft drinks war fizzled in to life again Thursday after Coca-Cola, forced out of the country 11 years ago, said it wanted to set up a new processing plant in the capital. The U.S. giant said it had asked the government for permission to build a plant in Delhi to make of the ingredients for its concentrate, made to a secret recipe. Just two months ago its global rival Pepsi Cola set off a storm of protest from Indian soft drinks manufacturers when it was given permission to set up a plant in north India's Punjab state. Coca-Cola executive Robert Wilkinson said his company would export 75 per cent of the concentrate manufactured in Delhi, leaving the rest to be bottled for Indian consumption. The \$2.3 million Delhi plant would be wholly owned by the parent company but Wilkinson said Coca-Cola may look for local partners to help develop its Indian operations. Ramesh Chaudhan of Parle Exports, which controls 44 per cent of the \$200 million Indian soft drinks market, said it would be a "bad decision" if the government gave Coke the green light. From self-reliance we are moving to reliance. It will be a step backward," he said, referring to India's long-standing policy of keeping out the multinationals.

Iran signs memorandum with Soviets

NICOSIA (AP) — A memorandum of understanding for the reconstruction of some factories destroyed in the war with Iraq was signed Thursday between Iran and the Soviet Union, Tehran Radio reported. The Soviet Union will build a number of factories for the manufacture of basic construction materials, said the report. Four factories will be built or rebuilt in Mashad, Kerman, Ahwaz and Bakhtaran, the radio said. The official Islamic Republic Agency reported earlier that Iran has asked the Soviet Union for speedy resumption of work on joint construction projects halted through a combination of Gulf war fighting and strained relations. Western estimates put the cost of reconstruction in Iran from \$300 billion to \$500 billion.

Reuters sells NBC a stake in Visnews

LONDON (R) — Reuters, the international news and information organisation, sold a share of its controlling stake in the television news agency Visnews to the U.S. National Broadcasting Company (NBC) Thursday and announced a cooperation deal between the two television companies. Under a 10-year agreement, NBC and Visnews will share offices throughout the world and NBC will provide its news and news products to Visnews to be marketed internationally. A statement said London-based Visnews, which has become the biggest television news agency since it began in 1957, would supply all of its news to NBC for use in the United States. NBC was paying Reuter Holdings Plc. about \$10 million for a 37.75 per cent stake in Visnews with Reuters retaining 51 per cent, the statement added. The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) owns the remaining 11.25 per cent of the company.



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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES					
Thursday Nov. 17, 1988 Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	459.0	461.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	377.5	379.4
Pound Sterling	841.2	845.4	Dutch guilder	237.4	238.6
Deutchmark	267.7	269.0	Swedish crown	76.4	76.8
Swiss franc	318.4	320.0	Italian lira (for 100)	35.9	36.1
French franc	78.3	78.7	Belgian franc (for 10)	127.5	128.1

Amman Financial Market weekly trading			
Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:			
	Nov. 12-16	Nov. 5-9	
Daily average	JD 1,919,929	JD 1,814,984	
Total volume	JD 7,679,718	JD 9,058,718	
Total shares	4,734,532	6,263,536	
No. of contracts	4,183	6,020	
Sectoral trading:			
Industrial	JD 3,183,448 (41.4%)	JD 6,121,979 (67.6%)	
Financial	JD 4,144,603 (54.0%)	JD 2,290,812 (25.3%)	
Service	(2.5%)	(4.8%)	
Insurance	(2.1%)	(2.3%)	
Share price index	126.9	126.8	
No. of companies	77	71	
Price movement (rise)	32	59	
(decline)	33	3	
(stable)	12	9	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.			
One Sterling	1.8110/20	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.2325/40	Canadian dollar	
	1.7410/20	Deutchmarks	
	1.9630/40	Dutch guilders	
	1.4615/22	Swiss francs	
	36.47/50	Belgian francs	
	5.9500/50	French francs	
	1294/1295	Italian lire	
	122.95/123.05	Japanese yen	
	6.0730/80	Swedish crowns	
	6.5949/90	Norwegian crowns	
	6.7160/90	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	419.60/420.00	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS	
SYDNEY — Shares closed easier in thin trade as the market fell for the seventh consecutive trading day. The All Ordinaries index closed 1.8 points down at 1,493.0.	
TOKYO — Bullish sentiment pushed share prices to their sixth straight record close. The Nikkei index rose 103.39 points, or 0.36 per cent to 29,180.20.	
HONG KONG — Share prices closed at the day's high on improved market sentiment, encouraged by the U.S. dollar's mild recovery. The Hang Seng index rose 12.37 to 2,581.16.	
SINGAPORE — The market closed mixed after mild bargain-hunting alternated with light selling in listless trading. The Straits Times industrial index rose 0.14 to 991.37.	
BOMBAY — Share prices improved on sustained buying by state-owned investment institutions and speculators. Brokers said the market opened firm on news Benazir Bhutto hoped to form a new Pakistan government.	
FRANKFURT — Strong interest in selected blue chips steered the West German real-time 30-share Dax index to close at 1,277.55, up 12.96 points from the previous close.	
PARIS — French share prices shed initial gains and turned lower on profit-taking by midsession in thin trading. The 30-share price indicator was down 0.12 per cent down at 1200 GMT after starting Friday morning 0.07 per cent higher.	
ZURICH — Swiss shares closed mixed in heavy turnover. The All Share Swiss index stood at 911 points after 912.4 at Thursday's close.	
LONDON — Equities were mixed in late afternoon business, continuing an undecided trend. By 1544 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was down 1.8 to 1,821.8.	
NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks turned narrowly mixed with blue chips giving up early gains. The Dow was moving around its close at 2052 and only a few more issues showed gains than losses.	

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Reid wins Dubai golf

DUBAI (AP) — Dale Reid of Britain came from behind to win the Toyota Cressida Ladies Professional Golf Tournament here Thursday with a final-round 70 giving her a four-under-par total of 144. Reid was two shots off the lead with an even-par 74 in Wednesday's opening round trailing co-leaders Corinne Dibnah of Australia and Trish Johnson of Britain in the \$27,000 event.

Mohammad Ali visits Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — Former heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali arrived Friday for a visit during which he will tour Khartoum-area camps housing southern Sudanese displaced by war and famine. Ali, an American Muslim, is to meet Saturday with Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi. He leaves next Tuesday for Uganda's capital Kampala, from where international relief organizations have mounted an airlift to starving people in the south.

Spinks convicted of drunken driving

DELAWARE (AP) — Former heavyweight boxing champion Michael Spinks lost the decision on a 1987 drunk driving charge, but with sportsmanlike composure, thanked young fans in the courtroom. "Thanks for hanging in there with me, sport," he said Thursday to the children. "Lots of luck." A New Castle county superior court jury Thursday deliberated five hours before convicting Spinks. He was fined \$200, his license was revoked for one year, and he was ordered to enter a first offender's programme for drunk drivers.

Jorge returns to Porto

PORTUGAL (R) — Artur Jorge, who guided Porto to their 1987 European Cup triumph, returned Friday to manage the northern Portuguese club after a year in France. "It's great to be back with so many players I know and let's hope we can repeat our performances of a few seasons ago," he said. Jorge took over Matra Racing in Paris shortly after Porto won the European Cup. Citing family reasons, he resigned from the French club two weeks ago.

Xamax-Galatasaray to play rematch

GENEVA (R) — The European Football Union (UEFA) Friday upheld a protest by Swiss club Neuchâtel Xamax following their 5-0 defeat in the away leg of the European Cup second round tie against Galatasaray Istanbul and ordered the match to be replayed. In a brief statement, UEFA's control and disciplinary panel, which met in Zurich, said the match must be played on a neutral ground on a date to be decided.

Yugoslavia, France draw

YUGOSLAVIA (R) — Yugoslavia and France drew 2-2 (half-time 1-1) in their European under-21 Soccer Championship Group Five qualifying match Friday.

Sugarcane Hanover wins

NEW JERSEY (AP) — Sugarcane Hanover, a five-year-old from Norway, overtook the favourites to win by a neck Thursday night in the \$600,000 March of Dimes invitational trot to Garden State Park. The horse charged up in the last 20 yards to pass Mack Lobell, the world's record holder of the United States, and Ourasi, the French champion and foremost European trotter.

Christie named athlete of the year

LONDON (R) — Olympic double silver medalist Linford Christie, who was cleared of doping at the Seoul Games, was named Britain's athlete of the year Thursday. The Amateur Athletic Association (AAA) chose Christie in recognition of his second place in the 100 metres and as a member of the 4 x 100 metres relay team who were runners-up. Christie tested positive after traces of the stimulant pseudoephedrine were found in his urine sample, but the International Olympic Committee (IOC) medical commission accepted he was innocent after he explained he had taken the pseudoephedrine unwittingly in ginseng tea.

Otto to swim till August

BERLIN (AP) — Kristin Otto, the East German swimming star who won six gold medals at the Seoul Olympics, plans to continue her career through the European Swimming Championships next August, an East German newspaper reported Thursday. Deutsches Sportecho, a sports newspaper published in East Berlin, said the 22-year-old Olympic star plans to compete at the European Championships Aug. 12-20, 1989 in Bonn, West Germany. After ending her swimming career, Otto plans to become a journalist and already has started working as an intern at the local radio station in her native city of Leipzig, the newspaper said.

Cassidy sues Apoel Nicosia

NICOSIA (R) — Former Northern Ireland International Tommy Cassidy has sued leading Cypriot soccer club Apoel Nicosia for over \$100,000 for breach of contract, court sources said Friday. Cassidy, who signed a new two-year contract with First Division Apoel last summer, was sacked earlier this week after his side had conceded nine goals in their last two league matches. Cassidy, 38, joined Apoel in 1983 as a midfielder player and became their coach two years later. They won the league title in his first year as coach.

Sampras shocks Mayotte in WCT

DETROIT (R) — Pete Sampras, a 17-year-old who turned professional just six months ago, shocked top seed Tim Mayotte in straight sets Thursday to gain the quarter-finals of the \$415,000 World Championship Tennis Tournament. Sampras, serving exceptionally well and mixing passing shots with crisp volleys, won 6-3, 6-4.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Home activities, nature and sports are the best bet for today. Avoid the unusual or experimental. Go the familiar route for a pleasing time. Avoid pushing new ideas on others even though they seem sound.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Others in the household may get up on the wrong side of the bed. Be patient. Everything will get done, and you will arrive on time.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20): Turnout at home parties, but your intentions are misunderstood. You are stimulated and feel refreshed. Catch up on home matters. Visit the local flea market.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): Turnout at home parties, but your intentions are misunderstood. It will soon cloud your day if you let it. Discuss shared resources.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21): You want to quit when things are not going smoothly. Grumbling will cause others to feel they must defend themselves.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21): You are the star, and others will follow you. Give the house a once over. Things you need will be found after a search. Remain cheerful.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): Keep your temper in check today.

Scattered energies aggravate your sense of order. A surprise phone call comes with travel plans.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Research plans for a visit. Consult others on upcoming holiday plans.

Share the workload to free up time. Catch up on correspondence.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You wake up annoyed by home conditions. A close look reveals better organization. Control your feelings. Avoid taking action. Stay calm.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Let the family decide the plans for the day. It feels good to let someone else take charge. Sporting events are a good idea.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Make out a shopping list, and tally it against your budget. Strike out unnecessary items. Events are in your favor. Romance flourishes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): You feel that everything is broken, out of place and misused. It has been that way for some time. Get moving, and clean things up.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): Your picky mood is unusual. Give yourself a pep talk. Don't lose an enjoyable day. Use your creative instincts, and rely on intuition.

Everton could burst Norwich victory bubble

LONDON (R) — Everton could do arch rivals Liverpool and championship favourites Arsenal a big favour by beating English League leaders Norwich Saturday.

The Norwich bubble has refused stubbornly to burst and with nearly a third of the season over they stand four points clear of second-placed Arsenal and eight ahead of the champions in fifth spot.

Norwich have won all their five away league games, but on their day Everton are more than capable of ending that run.

Liverpool, away to Queen's Park Rangers (QPR), continue to chase their best form but history shows it would be foolish to write off their title chances.

QPR welcome back goalkeeper David Seaman, who made his debut for England in the 1-1 draw in Saudi Arabia Wednesday, and defender Mark Dennis after a six-week absence with a dislocated shoulder.

Manager Jim Smith offered an interesting observation on playing the Merseysiders. "We all look forward to playing Liverpool because the pressure is not so great, as they are always expected to win," he said.

Arsenal have developed a championship look over the last few weeks. They demolished Nottingham Forest and then beat Newcastle without playing at their best.

Seven internationals Newly promoted Middlesbrough offer the opposition at Highbury, but they have a poor away record and Arsenal, blessed with seven internationals, should extend their unbeaten run to 12

matches. Three new faces are in competition for places in Manchester United's team to face third-placed Southampton at Old Trafford as United battle against a mounting injury list.

Manager Alex Ferguson has been forced to shuffle his options and new signing Ralph Milne from third division Briston City is in the 14-strong squad.

He joined United a week ago and has had only one reserve team match. Ferguson intended to ease him into action with a couple more reserve outings but the departure of Jesper Olsen to Bordeaux leaves him short on forward cover.

Twenty-year old Tony Gill and 19-year old David Wilson are also in the squad.

Mike Duxbury is ruled out with a pelvic injury but fellow defender Steve Bruce has recovered from the injury received at Derby last Saturday when he almost

swallowed his tongue.

F.A. Cup fever

Meanwhile, the long haul to the F.A. Cup final at Wembley in May starts Saturday with teams from minor leagues tackling third and fourth division opposition in the first round of the competition.

Little known sides like Waterlooville, Guisborough and Frickley will have their dreams.

But for one man it will be memories. Former Manchester City winger Tommy Hutchison, now 41 and playing for Third Division Swansea, scored for both sides in the 1981 final between City and Tottenham. The game ended 1-1 but Tottenham won the replay.

Hutchison, who faces Northampton, also of the Third Division, said: "When I run out the Adrenaline will be flowing. That's how special the F.A. Cup is. It lifts every player."

Shriver-Graf clash set

NEW YORK (R) — Pam Shriver upset Chris Evert 7-5, 6-4 Thursday to reach the semifinals against an ailing Steffi Graf at the million-dollar women's tennis championships at Madison Square Garden.

Graf, the top seed and Grand Slam champion, was advised by a doctor not to play because of a head cold and slight fever, but she went out anyway and beat seventh seed Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria 6-1, 6-3 in her quarter-final.

Despite her easy success against Maleeva, the West German decided to withdraw from the doubles competition in order to preserve her strength for Saturday's match against Shriver.

Evert had escaped in three sets in the first round against Barbara Potter, who plays a similar serve-and-volley game to Shriver's, but the 33-year-old former world number one was frustrated by Shriver's aggressive tactics throughout.



Pam Shriver

Shriver, fifth in the world, won the first set by breaking Evert in the 12th game with a backhand volley that she set up with one of her 92 net approaches.

Evert was in control in the second set, leading 4-3 and up a service break, but Shriver turned

the match around by breaking for 4-4 to snap any chance of Evert building momentum.

Shriver, who has now beaten Evert in three of their last four meetings after losing the first 18 times they played, said her game plan has to get to the net.

"Every time I went for it and came to the net, I was successful. Every time I laid off, I lost the point. I knew I had to come in, but it still took courage," said Shriver.

Evert has not fared well here, losing in the first round in 1985 and 1987.

"Pam played a smart match. We both had chances, and she took advantage of them better than I did. Her serve was on and she got a lot of free points," said Evert.

Graf's illness did not seem to hamper her against Maleeva. After needing three sets to win her first-round match against compatriot Claudia Kohde-Kilsch, Graf raised her game to overwhelm Maleeva in a baseline match.

Graf stopped occasionally to blow her nose during the match but had no problems winning points against Maleeva, as the West German took advantage of the Bulgarian's inconsistent backhand.

NBA ROUNDUP

NEW YORK (AP) — Here is a roundup of National Basketball Association games Thursday night:

Sonics 101, Lakers 98 Dale Ellis scored 27 points, including a pair of free throws that put Seattle ahead with 1:23 to go, as the SuperSonics ended a three-game losing streak with a 101-98 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

The loss snapped the Lakers' four-game winning streak. Jazz 123, Trail Blazers 99 Darrell Griffith scored eight of his 40 points during a 14-point run to start the fourth quarter as the Utah Jazz beat the Portland Trail Blazers 123-

99. Karl Malone scored 29 points and Thurl Bailey 17 for Utah. Clyde Drexler led Portland with 24 and reserve Steve Johnson had 18.

Nets 105, Bucks 96 Roy Hinson scored 23 points and Walter Berry 21 as the New Jersey Nets used an 11-0 run in the fourth quarter to beat the Milwaukee Bucks 105-96.

The Nets, who won only three road games all last season, captured their second straight away victory. Ricky Pierce led Milwaukee with 28 points and Paul Pressey had 21.

Rockets 113, Heat 107 Alcega Olajuwon had 29 points and 13 rebounds and sparked a third-quarter burst as the Houston Rockets beat the winless Miami Heat 113-107.

Miami, 0-6, rallied to take its only lead at 62-61 on a basket by Anthony Taylor with 8:37 left in the third period. But Houston responded with 15 consecutive points, including seven by Olajuwon, to take control.

Mavericks 105, Hornets 93 Mark Aguirre scored 10 points during a 34-12 third period, sending the Dallas Mavericks over the Charlotte Hornets 105-93.

Aguirre had 26 points and Rolando Blackman added 21 for Dallas, which erased a one-point halftime deficit with 10 straight points to open the third period. Kelly Tripucka led the expansion Hornets with 15 points.

Nuggets 139, Spurs 112 Danny Schayes grabbed 31 points and grabbed 14 rebounds as the Denver Nuggets routed the San Antonio Spurs 139-112.

Schayes shot 12 of 15 from the foul line. San Antonio lost its fourth straight game and has not won in Denver since 1986.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

THREE STEPS TO SUCCESS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ J 2
♥ J 4 3
♦ A J 3 2
♣ A Q 6 5

WEST
♠ 7 3
♥ A Q 5
♦ 10 9 8
♣ J 9 8 4 2

EAST
♠ 6 5 4
♥ 9 8 7 6
♦ 7 5 4
♣ K 10 3

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 10 9 8
♥ K 10 2
♦ K Q 6
♣ 7

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

Bridge and archeology have a lot in common. In both you have to dig beneath the surface to find the real treasures. Study this hand and see if you can unearth the extra chance.

We are not proud of North's decision to bid two no trump. While we have no quibbles with his distribution, certainly his heart stopper left something to be desired; our preference would have been for a waiting bid in one of the minors. South's jump to four clubs was the Gerber convention, asking for aces, and he

settled in the small slam when he found out one ace was missing.

What are your chances of gathering 12 tricks after a diamond lead? Since one heart can be discarded on dummy's fourth diamond, it would seem success hinges on either guessing the heart position (where you can either finesse for the queen or lead to the king) or a club finesse.

However, you don't want to go down in a slam in a suit which is not critical, so we suggest you don't even consider the club finesse.

There is still another line. If trumps are 3-2 and the king of clubs is only twice guarded, you can ruff out his majesty and set up the queen for another heart discard. So win the diamond in hand, cash the ace of trumps and ace of clubs, and ruff a club. Now get back to the table with the jack of trumps.

If trumps are 4-1, you can't afford another club ruff without risking losing control of the hand. Therefore, lead the jack of hearts and try to guess the position. If trumps go break 3-2, ruff another club. If the king does not appear, you will have to fall back on the hearts. But when the king drops, draw the last trump, take two heart discards on the minor suit winners and cheerfully concede a heart trick to the defenders.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NICEW
CUMSI
YATIR
DROINO

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Jumbles: MONEY GROUP SCURVY METRIC
Answer: What the swimmer's posture was—
"INFORTUNE"

THE Daily Crossword

by Martha J. DeWitt

ACROSS
1 Narcotic
10 Stripes
14 Enthusiastic
15 Blender product
16 Small
17 Award
19 Prohibition
20 Captivity
21 Orange blossom oil
23 Ocular
24 Star
25 Capet play
27 "Roman of them all" (Shakespeare)
30 Kettledrum
34 Filles
35 Clan
37 Shakespeare's flower
38 Alsatian outpost
39 Subtle
40 Resolutions
41 Matrices
42 Indian
43 Camera's eye
44 Ass. alphabet
45 Exclamation of reproach
46 Madagascan mammal
48 Supposed
49 The Lupinus
50 Author Urie
51 Android
52 The man
53 Tuber
54 Award
55 Floed city
56 Century plant
58 Sun disk
59 Edible seed
60 places
61 Castle defense

DOWN
1 William's county
2 Baking place
3 Kind of type
4 Brother of Jacob

5 Meager
6 Exclamation of surprise
7 Swiss canton
8 Sign light
9 Swiss
10 Award
11 Image
12 The turnstile
13 Hit play sign
14 French
15 Dip in road
16 Offspring
17 Of the
18 Telephone
19 Of a cereal grain
20 Award
21 Carried
22 Requested
23 Mious
24 Datum
25 Dated
26 Frigate
27 Kind of bird
28 Incur

45 Tokyo's early
47 Actress Elia
49 Dodge
51 Sp. jar
52 Kind of fly
54 Junction
55 Toward center
56 On the terry
57 Furnished
58 Short haircut
59 Stockholder's share abbr.
61 Eggs

Gorbachev reassures India of strong friendship, ties

NEW DELHI (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev Friday reassured New Delhi that Moscow's warming relations with other countries — a clear reference to China — did not mean a cold shoulder for India.

In a banquet speech on the first day of his visit to India, Gorbachev complained of "not exactly friendly" comments that Soviet friendship for India was waning.

"Some go so far as saying that the Soviet Union is changing its priorities, even becoming cool towards India. I shall not dignify with an answer such totally groundless and obviously speculative assertions," he said.

Some Indian officials say privately and some newspapers say publicly that they fear better Soviet ties with Peking would be to India's cost.

Gorbachev, who arrived in New Delhi Friday on his first trip abroad in his new role as Soviet president, told reporters at the welcome ceremony that Moscow cherished its ties with New Delhi.

The two countries are linked by a 1971 peace and friendship treaty. Gorbachev demonstrated the

importance Moscow places on ties with New Delhi with a visit two years ago, his first trip to an Asian country after he came to power in March 1985.

But recently some Indian press reports have expressed concern over Moscow's rapprochement with China, with whom India has had frosty relations since a border war in 1962.

Following a long estrangement between Moscow and Peking, Soviet and Chinese foreign ministers are visiting each other's capitals in the coming months to lay the groundwork for a possible summit of the two communist giants.

New Delhi is also trying to improve ties with Peking and Rajiv Gandhi is making an official visit there next month, the first Indian prime minister to do so in 34 years.

Gorbachev said Moscow put its

friendship with India in a class by itself. "Soviet-Indian friendship rests on a firm foundation and has nothing to do with any transient considerations or schemes."

'Warm atmosphere'

The Soviet leader had private talks with Gandhi Friday that lasted nearly two and a half hours. An Indian spokesman said they were held "in an exceptionally warm atmosphere" and was at pains to stress that there was no discord.

He said the talks had ranged widely across international affairs and bilateral economic ties, but that no specifics had been discussed.

Gorbachev said he had begun talking with Gandhi about the role their nations had to play in solving global problems.

He said the Soviet Union and India both supported the settlement of regional conflicts, an apparent reference to Afghanistan, from which Moscow is withdrawing its troops after nine years backing Kabul in a war against rebels.

Gorbachev said the two countries would expand their economic ties from trade based predominantly on exchanging products to industrial cooperation.

Raisa takes charge

An elegant Raisa Gorbachev had a businesslike meeting with Rajiv Gandhi's wife, Sonia, and other high-powered Indian women.

Raisa was all smiles at a board meeting of a women's magazine she helped found.

But there was absolutely no doubt she was in charge. "Sweeping in to face the press, she immediately dictated the order of play. 'Let's just sit down and get to know one another,'" she said, Sonia Gandhi and the rest sat.

She was presented with the latest copy of the magazine "Hamari Goshthi" (our friendship), a photograph album chronicling the magazine's progress and a video cassette tape.

"Thank you, but I haven't earned this. So many presents, and I haven't done any work yet," she said in Russian.

South African court convicts apartheid activists of treason

PRETORIA (R) — The supreme court Friday convicted four people of treason, three of them officials of the anti-apartheid United Democratic Front (UDF), after the longest trial in South Africa's history.

Pope Molefe, Terror Lekota and Moss Chikane were senior members of the UDF. South Africa's largest anti-apartheid organisation. The treason charge carries a possible death penalty.

The case, which has lasted 37 months and involved 278 witnesses, is one of the most important since the treason trial that sentenced nationalist leader Nelson Mandela in 1964 for plotting to overthrow white rule.

Judge K. van Dijkhorst found that the UDF leadership had adopted in 1984 and 1985 a policy

of mass protest by violent means aimed at making South Africa ungovernable.

After he was sentenced, Chikane, the Transvaal provincial secretary of the UDF, told reporters: "The UDF is a non-violent organisation."

The fourth man convicted of treason was a local anti-apartheid activist, Thomas Manthata, who had links with both the UDF and a rival group which stressed black self-reliance in opposing the government.

Manthata was also found guilty of terrorism along with seven other activists who had organised rent boycotts during the 1984-86 nationwide black uprising.

Van Dijkhorst found six of the original 19 accused not guilty and they were discharged.

Earlier in the trial, six other accused had been discharged.

Lekota, UDF publicity secretary and wearing a big UDF badge, said: "We have nothing to be ashamed of. The only people to be ashamed are the people who rule this country."

Archbishop Desmond Tutu was in the public gallery for Friday's hearing, as were a number of foreign diplomats.

"Every time we try to oppose the state they criminalise us," Tutu told reporters.

The case is seen as a trial of the two million-member UDF as much as of the defendants.

During his judgment, spread over four days, van Dijkhorst found the organisation had behaved treasonably by stirring up violence in the Vaal Triangle area.

Soviet advanced computers in space mission startle U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — Moscow surprised the United States with the use of advanced computers to pilot the unmanned maiden flight of the Soviet space shuttle this week, a U.S. expert said Thursday.

"It tells us that they probably have more sophisticated computers than we thought they had. And it raises the question if they were acquired from outside the Soviet Union and whether or not they were acquired legally," said Marcia Smith.

A lot of people were surprised that they were able to do this whole mission with automated commands," Smith, a senior space analyst with the Library of Congress, told reporters.

The pilotless white Soviet space shuttle Buran — Russian for Snowstorm — landed Tuesday,

three hours and 25 minutes after blastoff on the back of the Energia booster from the Baikonur space centre.

The United States has the capability of flying an unmanned shuttle but has used astronaut crews from its very first flight in 1981.

Future Soviet shuttle flights are expected to be manned, but Smith said Moscow was "very conservative" about initial space flights.

She refused to speculate whether computers aboard the Soviet shuttle and on the ground were Soviet-made or acquired abroad. The Pentagon has complained for years that Moscow has been stealing Western technical secrets.

Smith challenged charges by some U.S. specialists that the

Soviet shuttle was a carbon copy of the U.S. orbiter. The two look alike and both are paved with ceramic tiles to protect them from heat.

"I feel quite strongly that it is not a carbon copy of the American shuttle. In fact, one could argue that they have gone one better in the shuttle," Smith said.

She said the American shuttle was limited in what it could carry into space because the orbiter, its external tank and solid rocket boosters must be launched all in one package.

The Soviet Union's powerful, liquid-fuel Energia booster can be used to lift either the shuttle or other very heavy payloads into orbit, she said.

Moscow is building several shuttles and has a team ready to travel on the spacecraft.

Mother's smoking may cause cot deaths

STOCKHOLM (R) — Smoking during pregnancy may cause infant cot deaths, claiming thousands of sleeping babies every year for no apparent reason, two Swedish doctors said Thursday.

Sven Cnattingius and Bengt Haglund said the risk of infant cot death was double among the children of mothers who smoked.

They studied all children born in Sweden between 1983 and 1985 and compared the facts with information about the mothers' age and smoking habits during pregnancy.

Cnattingius said the study supported the theory that cot death is connected with respiratory problems, put forward by

two Norwegian doctors last month.

He said it was possible that smoking blocked the provision of oxygen to the embryo, breaking down its natural defences and damaging the central nervous system.

The study revealed that mothers who smoked more than 10 cigarettes a day during pregnancy more than doubled the risk of cot death and increased the probability of the child dying at a very early age.

"It seems that the infants whose mothers smoke heavily suffer cot death earlier than other infants — often within a week or a month of birth," Cnattingius said.

The study showed that babies

born to young mothers and those who had several children stood a higher risk of suffering cot death. Boys are more vulnerable than girls.

Cot death is the leading cause of death in developed countries in babies aged one month to a year. The lack of hard evidence about it has led to several theories about the cause including suggestions that the babies die from sudden shock, heart problems or simply from parents smothering them.

"Our study adds to the very difficult puzzle and confirms that we should do all in our power to help pregnant women give up smoking," Cnattingius told Reuters.

'Brezhnev led plot against Khrushchev'

MOSCOW (R) — Leonid Brezhnev personally led the plot that brought the overthrow in 1964 of then Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, a former member of the ruling politburo said in an interview published Thursday.

Gennadi Voronov, who served in the Kremlin's inner cabinet under both leaders over a period of 11 years, told the government newspaper Izvestia Brezhnev had also consciously sabotaged economic reforms launched in the late 1960s.

"It was prepared for a year," the 78-year-old Voronov said when asked by Izvestia for details on the plot to oust Khrushchev, who held the posts of both prime minister and Communist Party chief.

"The threads led to Zavidovo (a village north of Moscow) where Brezhnev would normally

go hunting."

"Brezhnev himself marked plus-signs against names on a list of the (party's) policy-making Central Committee for those ready to support his struggle against Khrushchev, and he also marked some minus-signs," Voronov said.

"Everyone was given a personal working over... I was too, all night."

At the time of Khrushchev's ouster, Brezhnev had already emerged as his heir-apparent — according to some recent Soviet studies because he was a grey figure and an acceptable compromise.

Voronov's ground-breaking interview, given at the Soviet government's retirement home outside Moscow, provided the first detailed direct account of events

in the Kremlin during the 1960s by any chief actor in the dramas of the period.

A regional party leader who won a name for dictatorial methods in enforcing official agricultural policy in the late 1950s, Voronov was brought to Moscow in 1961 and promoted to the politburo.

He was also appointed prime minister of the Russian Federation, the largest of the 15 Soviet republics.

In 1972, according to his account in Izvestia, he willingly accepted a suggestion by Brezhnev that he retire because he was disgusted at the then Kremlin chief's behaviour as leader.

In the interview he said Brezhnev, who became party chief on Khrushchev's downfall, did not understand economic reforms



A scene from the March 19 Belfast lynching by a funeral crowd of two British soldiers in civilian clothing (Sygma photo)

Two charged in London over lynching of soldiers in Belfast

BELFAST (R) — Two men were ordered Thursday to stand trial for the killing of two British soldiers dragged from their car at an Irish Republican Army (IRA) funeral before being beaten and shot.

A Belfast magistrate's court was shown a video film, taken from a police helicopter, showing corporals Derek Wood and David Howes fighting desperately for their lives against a frenzied mob attack.

The men were knocked to the ground, beaten and kicked before being driven away in a taxi and shot by masked gunmen on waste ground. The gunmen were seen running to a nearby road where they got into another taxi which rejoined the funeral procession.

Henry McGuire, 28, and Alexander Murphy, 30, were charged with the murders and with falsely

imprisoning the two soldiers and possessing firearms. The court ruled there was sufficient evidence for the case against them to go to trial.

It ruled that a third man who had been charged, 32-year-old Patrick McGuire, had no case to answer and he was released.

The soldiers were attacked by a crowd attending the funeral of an IRA guerrilla in Belfast March 19.

The Belfast court room was rigged with more than £100,000 (\$182,000) worth of video equipment to show the film, which included British and French television footage.

London bombings

Cardinal Basil Hume, Roman Catholic primate of England and Wales, asked the government

Thursday to reopen the case of four Irish people jailed for bombing two bars near London in 1974, saying new evidence had come to light.

In a letter to Home Secretary Douglas Hurd, Hume also urged a re-investigation of the linked case of the so-called "Maguire Seven" who were imprisoned for handling explosives.

"We are now even more convinced than ever that there is an overwhelmingly strong case for the Guildford four and Maguire cases to be re-investigated and re-appraised. Justice can only be seen to be done if this course is taken," Hume wrote.

Seven people were killed and 88 injured in the bombing of two public houses in the town of Guildford frequented by soldiers. The attack was mounted during a bombing campaign by the IRA.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Six hanged in South Africa

PRETORIA (R) — Six men went to the gallows in Pretoria at dawn Friday, taking the total of executions in South Africa this year to 110, a justice department official said. A seventh man was granted a last-minute stay of execution. The official said the six were two white men, two mixed-race coloureds and two blacks. The racial breakdown of those executed so far this year is 74 blacks, 33 coloureds and three whites, the official added. Johannesburg lawyers say South Africa has one of the highest execution rates in the world. A total of 164 people were executed last year for crimes including rape, murder and armed robbery. A prisons department spokesman said 279 people are on death row. All executions are carried out at Pretoria central prison.

B-1B bomber crew survive crash

RAPID CITY, South Dakota (R) — Four crew members parachuted to safety from a B-1B bomber before it crashed near Ellsworth air force base in western South Dakota, the U.S. Air Force said. A spokesman gave no details of the Thursday night crash but said a statement would be issued later. Police said the four crew members were taken to the base hospital, but the air force refused to confirm or deny the report. Defence department officials said Tuesday that the air force had inspected and cleared more than two thirds of the B-1B bombers grounded after a crash in Texas that destroyed one of the planes.

Fish oil helps heart patients

WASHINGTON (R) — Cardiologists and scientists said Thursday that people should not take large doses of fish oil to reduce the risk of heart disease, but should eat fish. However, Dr. Mark Milner of the Washington hospital centre reported fish oil can "dramatically improve" the results of coronary angioplasty for heart patients, a technique in which arteries are opened by a balloon inserted surgically. Speaking to the American Heart Association's 61st scientific session, the scientists said the long term effects of taking large amounts of fish oil are unknown and its benefit in preventing heart disease has not been shown. Dr. Virgil Brown, president of Mediantic Research Foundation, recommended Americans eat more ocean fish as a way to reduce harmful fats from meats in their diets.

Radioactive water spills at U.S. plant

BOSTON (AP) — About 500 litres of radioactive water overflowed a collection area during maintenance at the Pilgrim nuclear plant, and some of it seeped outdoors into a parking lot, the plant's owner said. One worker was slightly contaminated. Peter Agnes, Governor Michael Dukakis' chief aide on nuclear power, said elevated levels of radioactivity were detected as far away as the perimeter fence. He gave no indication of whether the spill posed a threat to the public. The spill occurred Wednesday at a low-level nuclear waste processing area at the plant, which is awaiting word from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on whether it can begin low-level power testing after a two-and-a-half-year shutdown because of management and equipment problems.

6 correspondents killed in crash

PARIS (R) — Six motoring correspondents, invited to view a new model by the West German car manufacturer BMW, were killed when their plane crashed shortly after takeoff near Paris Thursday, civil aviation authorities said. Rescuers found seven bodies, including that of the pilot of the private Cessna 441 executive jet. The identities of the dead have not been released, but a spokeswoman for the French Civil Aviation Administration said all were believed to be French. Police initially said 10 people had been killed, but three of the invited journalists apparently did not turn up for the trip, the spokeswoman said. BMW had laid on a press trip to see tests of a new car at Montluc in central France.

Cause of child baldness disease found

MOSCOW (AP) — A disease that has caused at least 127 children in a Ukrainian town to lose their hair has been traced to high doses of thallium, a toxic metal that probably was carried by acid rain, Pravda said Thursday. "Since there are no sources of the discharge of thallium into the environment in Chernobyl and its environs, a conclusion was drawn that the chemical was introduced to the area by acid rains in July," the Communist Party daily said. Despite the conclusion, authorities are continuing to investigate other possible causes for the disease, it reported. Pravda said a criminal investigation has been initiated, indicating that people found responsible for thallium poisoning may face criminal charges.

'Trial' manuscript gets record price

LONDON (AP) — The West German government Thursday paid £1.1 million (\$1.98 million) — the highest price ever for a modern literary treasure — for the handwritten manuscript of Franz Kafka's novel "The Trial." The amount paid for the manuscript, which came from an unidentified seller, eclipsed the \$605,000 paid in New York last year for Kafka's letters to his lover, Felice Bauer. The buyer was a West German antiquarian bookseller, Heribert Tenschert, who said he was contacted by West German government authorities to buy the manuscript for the Marbach Literary Institute near Stuttgart.

A new Christmas gift idea

VIBORG, Denmark (R) — Christmas revellers who feel amorous after an evening's drinking will be able to get free condoms from taxi-drivers on the way home, according to a civic official in this western Danish town. "As alcohol goes in, common sense goes out, so it is good to be reminded of condoms when riding a taxi home," said a spokeswoman for Viborg council's AIDS department. Taxi drivers have agreed to hand out free condoms provided by the council throughout December, a month marked by celebratory drinking and large lunches. Cabs will carry stickers reading: "remember a condom for the one you love."

Elton John plans divorce

LONDON (R) — Flamboyant pop star Elton John and his West-German-born wife Renate Blauel said Thursday they planned to divorce. "Elton John and Renate sadly announce that they have separated and plan to divorce by mutual consent when two years have elapsed," their public relations consultants said in a statement. It said the couple would not disclose the financial terms of their divorce. John, whose real name is Reginald Dwight, admitted to being bisexual before marrying Renate, a former sound recordist, in Sydney, Australia, in 1984. Renate, 34, said in the statement that she was seeing too little of her 41-year-old husband because of his work commitments and they were growing apart.

Church say 'Thou shalt be polite'

CANTERBURY, England (R) — Guides, ushers and tombstone and vault cleaners at England's medieval Canterbury cathedral are to be sent on a course to learn "the ten commandments of visitor care." The commandments include: "The visitor is an important person and should be treated as such. The visitor does not depend on us we depend on him. The visitor is the person who pays our salary." Cathedral authorities announced Thursday that the course will teach staff to be more responsive to the two million annual visitors. Spokesman Geoffrey Hattie denied it was a response to visitors' complaints, and dismissed press reports that stony-faced ushers order visitors to "keep quiet or leave our cathedral." He said praise letters far outnumbered complaints.

French prefer marriage fidelity

PARIS (R) — The French passion for maintaining a mistress or lover is on the wane, according to a poll published Thursday. The survey, by the weekly Nouvel Observateur, showed 69 per cent of French adults believe fidelity is indispensable in marriage. Young people are even more strongly opposed to sex on the side, with 72 per cent disapproving of the secret amours of their parents' generation. A similar poll five years ago said only 65 per cent of the French believed in fidelity.

Brazilian film festival opens

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Filmmakers from Europe, Latin America, Asia and Canada are attending the fifth International Cinema, TV and Video Festival of Rio de Janeiro, considered one of the world's top festivals. Fourteen films from 13 countries will compete for the "Golden Toucan" award for best picture in the nine-day festival, which opened Thursday. An international jury that includes Brazilian-Argentine director Hector Babenco, Italy's Marcos Bellocchio and Argentina's Mario Sabato will also award prizes for best actor, best actress, best director and best works in television and video.



Koo Stark

Koo Stark sues again

LONDON (R) — American-born actress Koo Stark, a former girlfriend of Britain's Prince Andrew, is taking libel action against a second newspaper owned by publishing magnate Robert Maxwell, according to her lawyer.

Stark's solicitor, Keith Schilling, said Thursday: "An action for libel against the Daily Mirror is due to commence on Monday."

Stark, 32, a former girlfriend of Queen Elizabeth's second son, won damages of £300,000 (\$549,000) from the Sunday tabloid People for articles which the judge described as a "tissue of lies."

She said the stories implied she had an adulterous affair with Prince Andrew, after her marriage to Timothy Jeffries, heir to a business fortune. They are now officially separated.

The People said after the judgment that it would appeal against the amount of the damages.

It acknowledged the stories were wrong, but said it did not believe they were defamatory. The information had come from a source the newspaper believed to be reliable.

Stark's action against the Mirror is unconnected with the allegations made by the People in connection with Prince Andrew.

Legal sources said the suit concerned the breakup of British actress Joan Collins's marriage to Swedish businessman Peter Holm.



Leonid Brezhnev